



2009 SD Shakespeare Festival Info

What and when is it?

You are invited to participate in the fourth annual San Diego Student Shakespeare Festival sponsored by the San Diego Shakespeare Society. It is designed to make Shakespeare come alive for students by giving them the opportunity to become doers rather than observers. The daylong festival is held in **Balboa Park on Saturday, April 25, 2009**. Students perform scenes and sonnets from the works of Shakespeare as well as demonstrate dance, vocal and instrumental music, juggling, puppetry, etc. The Festival begins with a procession from the Organ Pavilion to the multiple 16'w x 12'd stages along the Prado. Performances begin immediately following the opening ceremonies and concluding with an awards ceremony.

Who can participate?

All San Diego City and County public and independent schools are invited to participate: elementary, middle, and high schools. Participation is qualified by an informal evaluation of progress in mid-March through early April.

What are the logistics?

Each participating school will be assigned a 15-minute time slot which includes 5 minutes to set-up and strike. Groups may select scenes from any Shakespearean play: they may do an entire scene, splice together several cuttings, or create a theatrical collage of music, dance, sonnets, scenes, etc. Awards will be made for best dramatic scenes, best comedy scenes, and best collage scenes at elementary, middle, and high school levels. Outstanding performances will also be honored.

More about Scenes and Collages:

A scene could be a cutting from Act I, sc. 1 or cuttings from Act I, sc. 1 and Act I, sc. 3, etc. with an original introduction and narrative bridge. **The Shakespearean text must be as written**, not modernized or simplified. But the presentation style could be Elizabethan, Victorian, contemporary, space-age, or wherever your muse takes you.

An example of a collage might be "Shakespeare in Love Sonnets" with an English folk song and dance opening, then several Shakespearean sonnets with tableaux, and a concluding song and dance. It must contain substantial Shakespearean text.

How is it coached?

Each school designates one person as the coordinator through whom all Festival information is disseminated. Language arts, drama, and music teachers are most often the primary coaches, although some solicit the help of parents and other volunteers for rehearsals, costuming, and supervision on the day of the Festival. Preparation for assessment and the Festival are often tied to a Shakespeare unit taught in the classroom. In addition, many teachers meet with students before or after school or during lunch in a systematic rehearsal process to prepare for the Festival.

What is the time commitment/assessment process?

Many schools begin in February to allow adequate time to prepare performances before the March assessments. While parts need not be fully memorized, auditors should see polished staging with blocking, props, and costumes. Our assessors will also work with groups after the assessment as requested. Assessors include directors and actors with extensive classic acting experience.

What resources are available?

Our February teachers' workshop will provide information and techniques. We will provide an in-class workshop for your students in the spring. Our assessors will also work with your cast upon request. Visit the Shakespeare Festival website listed below.

A mandatory teacher workshop will be held on a Saturday morning February 21, 2009. Each participating school must have an adult representative.

Is there a cost?

There is no cost to participate in the Festival itself. Individual schools are financially responsible for costuming, props, and transportation the day of the festival.

How do we become involved?

Call Mike Auer at the San Diego Shakespeare Society, 858 467-0836 with questions.

On line entries: <http://www.sandiegoshakespearesociety.org/>

Fax entries: 858 874-8837; E-mail entries and questions: mauerap@sbcglobal.net

Mail entries: SD Student Shakespeare Festival, 1428 Camino Lujan, SD, CA 92111.