

KINGSMEN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

SHAKESPEARE EDUCATION TOUR



The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company (KSC) is once again bringing Shakespeare to life for elementary school students in grades K-6.

The Shakespeare Educational Tour (SET) has over a decade of school performances and has achieved regional recognition for engaging students in the world of live theatre through the works of William Shakespeare. SET is led by a group of six professional actor/teachers trained to introduce and enlighten children as they explore the world of the bard.

In one day, schools receive 9 in-class workshops and are treated to a 55 minute adaptation of a classic Shakespearean comedy.



A professional theatre company of California Lutheran University

SHAKESPEARE EDUCATIONAL TOUR

THE WORKSHOP

Each year the workshops focus on one of three Shakespeare plays available to be studied by elementary students (*A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, The Tempest.*) A children's storybook version of the play, part of the *Shakespeare Can Be Fun* series by Lois Burdett, should be available in each school's library, and available for teachers to read to their classes prior to the performance date, if so desired. A Shakespeare Unit for K-2 and for Grades 3-6 developed by teachers in the Conejo Valley Unified School District and the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company is available on the company's website, www.kingsmenshakespeare.org. Additional preparatory educational materials resources are also posted on the website. Look for the "resources" link under the "Shakespeare Educational Tour" heading.

The workshops are interactive and engage students with Shakespeare's life and times, Shakespeare's language and poetry, the stories and characters of the play, and preparation for viewing a live performance.

THE WORKSHOP PROCEDURE

Six actor/teachers arrive at your school by 8 a.m. on the day of performance. A stage manager will place props, costumes and scenery in the designated performing space or holding area. Beginning as early as your first period, the actor/teachers will divide into teams of two and visit your K through 6th grade classrooms to lead 45 minute workshops with your students. Each team is available for 3 workshops each morning, so with our 3 teams, this gives a total of nine 40 minute workshop time slots per school. Schools are free to combine classes so that our actors can see all the students who are scheduled to attend the performance later. Two suggested packages are listed below.

Package 1

3 – 20 minute workshops at 8:30
(The 20 minute workshop is designed for grades K– 2)
6 – 40 minute workshops at 9:15 and 10:30
(The 40 minute workshop is for grades 3 – 6)
1 school assembly at 1:00pm

Package 2

9 – 40 minute workshops
starting at 8:30, 9:45, 11:15
1 school assembly starting at 1:00pm
The school decides which grades attend the assembly. Variations to the packages may be negotiated.

THE PERFORMANCE

The 50 minute performance is the culmination to the day of Shakespeare. Adapted from the chosen play, the entertaining and engaging performance features a simple set and costumes with the six actors performing all of the roles in the play.

THE COST

The cost for the 9 workshops and the performance is \$1600.



The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company (KSC) mission “is dedicated to presenting professional programs and performances of the works of William Shakespeare for the entertainment and education of people of all ages.” KSC features five program areas.

- Highly prominent since 2000, KSC’s Shakespeare Educational Tour (S.E.T.) has delivered a program of workshops and performances supplemented by lesson units to K-6 students in the region.
- KSC’s annual outdoor Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival has played for audiences totaling well over 100,000 in Ventura and Los Angeles counties since 1997. All persons under the age of 18 are admitted free of charge to the six week Festival.
- KSC offers opportunities for high school, college, and university students to apprentice with Kingsmen’s professional company during the summer Festival.
- In conjunction with the Festival, KSC offers “Camp Shakespeare,” an acting day camp for kids ages 9-16.
- KSC offers elementary, middle school and high school workshops for classrooms and after-school programs

The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company presents the SET program which reaches out to local elementary schools by offering programming that educates students about William Shakespeare and the theatre. As the greatest playwright and perhaps the greatest writer in any medium to write in English, Shakespeare is not only under-produced, but also largely misunderstood. Theatre education, it is clear to us, is dependent on live staging of Shakespeare’s works surrounded by a re-creation of the world in which he lived and wrote. We feel that the presentation of this heritage will help prepare students for a better global understanding and help bind communities together within a mutual cultural context.

The curriculum is designed to meet a majority of the Language Arts Standards for the State of California, including:

Word Recognition

Comprehension of the Written Word

Literary Response

Comprehension of Speakers

Delivery of Oral Communication

