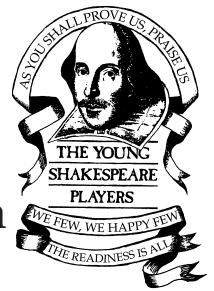


# Fall/Winter 2009-2010

## The Young Shakespeare Players Registration Form

(Please fill out a separate form for each actor in the family.)



Actor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade & School \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents/Guardians \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent E-mail address(es) that is checked regularly \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size (adult) \_\_\_\_\_  
Actor's E-mail address(es) that is checked regularly \_\_\_\_\_

[For details, please see attached materials, or email [ysp@ysp.org](mailto:ysp@ysp.org), or phone 608-258-0015, or visit [www.ysp.org](http://www.ysp.org).]

**Julius Caesar**  
New fall production [intro 9/12 & 13; ends 12/13]

**Dickens Dramatic Reading Society:  
A Tale of Two Cities** [intro 10/24; ends 2/20]

**YSP Brief, Focused Workshop**

[Topic: \_\_\_\_\_  
[starts \_\_\_\_\_; ends \_\_\_\_\_]]

**Shaw's "An Idle Conversation," from In  
Good King Charles's Golden Days** [intro  
10/14; ends 1/31]

**Shaw's The Music Cure & Augustus  
Does His Bit** YSP's Winter Show [intro 12/12;  
ends 3/21]

**The Tragedie of Othello, the  
Moor of Venice**  
YSP's Home-School Play [intro 1/11 & 13; ends 5/02]

### TUITION FEES\*\*

- Full-length plays *Julius Caesar, Othello* — \$635.
- Dickens Dramatic Reading Society — \$275.
- Short Shaw plays *Music Cure/Augustus, "An Idle Conversation"* — \$535.
- Brief, Focused Workshops — \$275.

#### \*\*EXPLANATION OF TUITION FEES AND POLICIES

YSP is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization; our fees only cover a portion of costs. YSP is committed to the principle that no one be excluded from participation because of the costs of tuition. Anyone who needs a reduced tuition can select any rate above one-half the basic tuition fee. (Please pay as much within this range as you realistically can!) The rest of your tuition is considered a scholarship. If even 1/2 the basic fee, spread over 4 monthly payments, is beyond your means, YSP will try to provide a larger scholarship or a more extended pay period, but this will depend upon the size of the scholarship fund that we accumulate.

YSP depends on voluntary contributions to the scholarship fund (these are tax deductible). The YSP Steering Committee requests that every family that can afford to do so add a tax-deductible contribution of \$50 to \$150 (more, if feasible!) to their tuition payment.

Because of the nature of YSP programs, YSP is unable to give refunds on tuition payments after the Introduction to a production has occurred.

Rehearsal session times and/or dates our actor cannot attend (NOTE: The program normally can accommodate ONLY date conflicts written here or approved by the end of the introductory sessions):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT: Rehearsal time preference (when applicable):**  
If the program for which we are registering has Saturdays of split rehearsal times (morning vs. afternoon), our actor (choose one):

has no preference   
prefers mornings  prefers afternoons   
MUST HAVE mornings  MUST HAVE afternoons

**IMPORTANT: Do NOT choose "must" unless there is an unavoidable conflict. "Musts" make casting difficult and may limit the roles your actor can receive!**

PLEASE FILL OUT THE REVERSE SIDE, ACTOR AND PARENT SIGN, AND RETURN WITH CHECKS.

TUITION PAYMENT

Actor's Name (please submit a separate form for each actor) \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the amount of payment and check the appropriate line at the bottom:

Full Tuition (See Tuition Fees and Policies on reverse side.) \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Subsidized Tuition (See Tuition Fees and Policies on reverse side.) \_\_\_\_\_

Audio tapes/CDs deposit of \$20 per actor Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Separate check, if refund desired.) \_\_\_\_\_

(A SEPARATE, NEW DEPOSIT CHECK FOR EACH PROJECT, PLEASE. We destroyed the last one!)

Voluntary tax-deductible contribution for the scholarship fund\*  
(suggested amount: \$50 to \$150 or more) \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks enclosed (check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ Full amount of Basic or Subsidized Fee

\_\_\_\_\_ Payment in 4 equal installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (dated now, and on the first day of each month starting \_\_\_\_\_)

If you choose installments, PLEASE ENCLOSE ALL CHECKS — PRESENT AND POST-DATED — WITH THIS REGISTRATION.

Actors enrolled in more than one project may extend payment beyond 4 installments. Please indicate number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person signing check(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

\*If you are unable to pay the subsidized tuition of at least one-half the basic fee, it may be possible to offer a larger scholarship or extended monthly payments depending on the amount of money in the scholarship fund. We do not want to exclude anyone because of the cost of the program.

Please make checks payable to YSP and send them with this form to: YSP, PMB #461, 2701 University Ave., Madison, WI 53705-3700.

For Registrar's Use Only Tape/CD deposit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scholarship Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE ON PARENT INVOLVEMENT

A critical part of the YSP success is parent involvement and help in completing key tasks. At the initial Parents' Meeting, you will be asked to volunteer to participate in or oversee a couple of these areas — such as concession sales, media publicity, clean-up before or after performances, videotaping performances.

For minors' programs: STATEMENT BY PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)—PLEASE READ AND SIGN!

Our young actor(s) would like to take part in the Young Shakespeare Players productions. (I understand that YSP cannot admit young people who do not, themselves, wish to take part.)

Our family understands and agrees that, in making this application, we are agreeing that our young actor(s) will:

1. attend all scheduled rehearsals, except for those excused in advance by the Directors (please indicate any such dates on reverse side) and except for those that must be missed because of the actor's illness or other family emergency (in which case a parent or guardian will call the Directors to clear the absence);
2. listen to instructional tapes and CDs at home in a timely manner;
3. memorize his/her part(s) according to the schedules provided during the rehearsals or in official YSP notifications;
4. act at all times with appropriate respect for and courtesy toward the Program, fellow participants, directors, volunteers, and any off-site performance hosts, and remain off YSP premises when no adults are present;
5. refrain from any use, sale, purchase, or discussion of tobacco, alcohol, or any banned substance — and refrain from any "couples behavior" — at any time on YSP premises or during YSP sessions or "breaks," or on the way to or from YSP sessions or "breaks";
6. provide opaque black tights, solid-black clothing, and black, soft-soled, flat shoes for dress rehearsals and performances;
7. pay all outstanding registration fees and deposits according to the schedule on the registration form; and also enclose (by separate check, if refund is desired) a \$20 deposit for instructional tapes and/or CDs, refundable when the tapes are returned at the end of the program.

We also agree that the Young Shakespeare Players is a not-for-profit organization and that neither the organization nor any staff member or volunteer has any liability for injury or harm that may occur to actors or their family members or companions in transit to or from rehearsals or performances, or due to accidents or other unforeseen circumstances during rehearsals or performances or "breaks." We further agree that YSP has our permission to use photos or video of our actor 1) at the playhouse, 2) on the YSP website, and 3) for the purpose of publicizing the production and/or YSP in general. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO

GRANT THIS PERMISSION, PLEASE CHECK THIS BOX

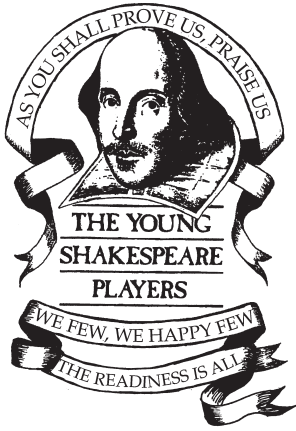
We have read and agree to the above terms and the terms in the accompanying letter.

Signed (Parent/Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Actor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# THE YOUNG SHAKESPEARE PLAYERS

September 15, 2009

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to enclose information about the exciting Fall/Winter 2009-10 season of the Young Shakespeare Players (YSP)! As the enclosed material describes, there are five entirely new productions planned for Fall and Winter. In addition, we will again offer several of our Brief, Focused Workshops for both young and adult actors.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Some of you are new to YSP — others are seasoned veterans of our projects. Those who would like information on the basic workings of this unique program may wish to read the box immediately below. Otherwise, please skip down to the section on Details of Fall/Winter Programs.

**UNMATCHED GROWTH  
FOR YOUNG MINDS**

**Director and Founder:  
Richard DiPrima, Psy.D.**

**Co-Director  
Anne DiPrima, Psy.D.**

**Administrator:  
Wendy Vardaman, Ph.D.**

**PMB #461  
2701 University Ave.  
Madison, WI  
53705-3700**

**telephone:  
608-258-0015**

**email:  
yvsp@yvsp.org**

**web:  
www.yvsp.org**

## Basic Facts About The Young Shakespeare Players

- ✓ *YSP began in Madison in 1980.* For 29 years, the program has brought together young people of Madison and vicinity to perform full-length Shakespeare plays (or, in our Workshops during the school year, uncut scenes and speeches from a variety of Shakespeare's best-loved works).
- ✓ *YSP is a program of and for all youngsters who wish to take part.* There are no auditions or rejections. Any child from about age 6 to 19 may take part — and perform the words and roles of Shakespeare — simply by registering. Every participant receives one or more speaking roles in every production.
- ✓ *YSP makes Shakespeare's masterpieces accessible.* The program is designed to show its young actors (and their families and the community) that the plays of Shakespeare are not "dull" or "above" them.
- ✓ *YSP's young actors perform with complete understanding.* Key to the actors' memorizing and understanding what they are saying is a system of audio tapes and CDs that the directors have prepared over more than 25 years. "Explanation tapes" examine every line of a particular part, explaining meanings and ways in which each passage fits into the play. "Lines-only" tapes help young actors memorize their parts (whether or not they read well).
- ✓ *YSP actors help direct their counterparts.* A unique and highly effective feature of the program is its multiple-cast rehearsals. When several casts rehearse together, one cast is on stage while the other actors help "direct" by watching and listening with extraordinary care, and commenting constructively on the performance.
- ✓ *YSP actors take part in every phase of the program.* Every YSP performer also has "tech-crew" roles for other counterpart casts — a feature that builds awareness and support of the players for one another and for the entire production process.
- ✓ *YSP parent involvement and support are absolutely vital.* This ambitious program is only possible with the help of the families of our players. At least one parent/guardian from each registering family needs to attend a Parents' Meeting at the beginning of the program and volunteer in some capacity during the program.
- ✓ *YSP participants often return again and again!* As noted, YSP demands much of our young actors (and their families). Still, most young people return for future projects. We believe that speaks very well of the program — and of the Madison-area families that built it!

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**1980-2009 29 Years of Unmatched Growth for Madison-Area Youth**

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## Summary of Important YSP Policies

**Tuition policy:** YSP is committed to the principle that no one should be excluded from participation because of the costs of tuition. Anyone who needs a reduced tuition may select any rate above one-half the basic tuition fee. The YSP budget is extremely tight, *and tuitions do not nearly cover YSP's costs!* We therefore ask that each family pay as much within this range as it realistically can. And we further ask that any family able to do so add a *tax-deductible* contribution of \$50 to \$150 (more, if feasible!) to its tuition payment, in order to buttress the scholarship fund. Because of the nature of YSP programs, YSP is unable to give refunds on tuition payments after Intro. days. We also request that families pay all outstanding registration fees and deposits according to the schedule on the registration form, enclose all post-dated checks, and enclose (by separate check, if refund is desired) a \$20 deposit for instructional tapes and/or CDs, refundable when the tapes are returned on time at the end of the program.

**The start of each program:** Each program begins with an introduction (and after the introduction, each **full-play** Shakespeare program includes reading for specific parts), after which the actors are cast in their roles in one of the casts. Each workshop also begins with an introduction, after which the roles and scenes are assigned in each cast.

**Rehearsal times and places:** Provided that we have enough registrants, **Saturday rehearsals for the fall *Julius Caesar*** will be on morning-afternoon rehearsal schedules, as are the summer productions. There are some actors who must have their regular rehearsal times either in the morning or the afternoon, and we do our best to accommodate those needs. **For this production, your preference for morning or afternoon rehearsals should be indicated on the Registration Form.** All rehearsals will be at the YSP Playhouse, 1806 West Lawn Avenue (just off Monroe Street). Actors who will need to miss part of the rehearsal or performance schedule are admitted at the directors' discretion. NOTE: extended absences may affect the actor's casting.

**Rehearsal attendance:** Attendance at rehearsals is vital for the development of the individual actor and for the progress of other actors and of the project as a whole. **Each actor is expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals**, except for those listed in advance on the actor's registration form, and except for those that must be missed because of the actor's illness or other family emergency (in which case, a parent or guardian should call the directors to clear the absence).

**Extra rehearsals:** In addition to the regular, scheduled rehearsals, actors and families should expect the possibility of some extra, specially scheduled rehearsals as dress rehearsals and performances approach.

**Dress rehearsal timing:** Dress rehearsals sometimes run long. For full-length shows and workshops, actors and families should be prepared for dress rehearsals of 5-8 hours, or perhaps even longer. Actors usually need to participate in TWO dress rehearsals — one as an actor, the other as a member of the "tech crew."

**Understanding and memorizing:** YSP productions depend on full understanding of performed lines and on their solid memorization. Each actor must listen to instructional tapes or CDs at home in a timely manner, and must memorize his/her part(s) according to the schedules provided during the rehearsals or in YSP notifications.

**Dress Rehearsal & Performance Attire:** Actors will provide opaque black tights, solid-black clothing, and black, soft-soled, flat shoes for dress rehearsals and performances, as directed in rehearsal.

**Performances:** At the culmination of each program, each cast dress rehearses once and performs twice (once for a Brief, Focused Workshop). Each cast also provides tech support for another cast's dress rehearsal and performances. Unless special arrangements are made in advance, each actor is expected to attend the one dress rehearsal and two performances of both his/her performance cast and tech cast. All dress rehearsals and performances will also be at the YSP Playhouse, 1806 West Lawn Avenue.

**Behavior:** As agreed on the registration form, participants will act at all times with appropriate respect for and courtesy toward the Program, fellow participants, directors, and volunteers, and also remain off YSP premises when no adults are present. They agree to refrain from any use, sale, purchase, or discussion of tobacco, alcohol, or any banned substance — and refrain from any "couples behavior" — at any time on YSP premises or during YSP sessions or "breaks," or on the way to or from YSP sessions or "breaks." **Please note that short rehearsal "breaks" are not supervised by YSP staff, directors, or volunteers; lunch breaks will normally have an adult (18 or older) on the premises.**

**Parents' Involvement:** YSP depends on parent involvement, both in understanding what the program asks of the actors, and in volunteering for jobs that are essential to the smooth running of the program. There will normally be an orientation parent meeting during the introduction phase of each production — (exact times will be announced at the first Introductory session). At these meetings we will go over the organization of the program and the details of the schedule and structure of rehearsals, work out coordination of volunteer tasks, and answer questions. If your family is new to YSP, it is vital that at least one adult from each family attends.

## Specific Program Dates

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All programs may have additional special rehearsals scheduled close to dress rehearsals and performances.

### Program #1: *Julius Caesar*

**Introduction to the play and reading for parts:** Saturday, September 12, from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., & Sunday, September 13, from 11:00 a.m.-approximately 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. (depending on enrollment).

**Rehearsals begin:** Saturday, September 19.

**Regular rehearsal days:** Assuming sufficient enrollment, there *MAY* be separate morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday, with each actor assigned EITHER to Saturday a.m. 9:00-12:00, OR Saturday p.m. 1:00-4:00. ALL casts rehearse together on Sundays, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. NO REHEARSAL on Saturday 11/28.

**Optional weeknight rehearsals:** Tuesday evenings, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., 9/29 through 12/1. **PLEASE NOTE:** *These weekday rehearsals are OPTIONAL for all actors. Each actor is encouraged to come as often as possible — and is welcome to attend as many (or as few) as will fit his or her schedule.*

**Special rehearsals:** There will most likely be additional special rehearsals scheduled later in the rehearsal process. Times will be arranged.

**Additional optional rehearsals:** Because this project spans Thanksgiving weekend, dress rehearsals will be held nearly two weeks before performances (ending on or before November 24), with a “refresher” run-through rehearsal on November 29 and a final optional rehearsal on December 1.

**Dress rehearsals:** Friday evening, November 20, Saturday 11/21 and Sunday, 11/22. (May go to Monday & Tuesday evenings, 11/23-11/24 Exact schedule will depend on enrollment.)

**Performances (evenings at 6 pm; matinees at 11am or 1 pm):** Wednesday-Sunday, December 2 -December 6, and Wednesday-Sunday, December 9-13 (depending on enrollment).

### Program #2: Adult Shakespeare Circle Full Play: *King Henry IV, Part 1*

Not accepting registrations...Performs October 15-18 at 6pm!!

### Program #3: Dickens Dramatic Reading Society: *A Tale of Two Cities*

[NOTE: *This program is limited to veterans of YSP who have been in at least two Shakespeare plays and one language-based Focused Workshop.*]

**Introduction to the workshop:** Saturday, 10/24, 4-6pm

**Rehearsals begin:** Tuesday, 10/27, 6-8pm, ending 2/2. [NO REHEARSAL 11/28]

**Regular rehearsal times and days:** Tuesdays, 6-8pm, and Saturdays 4-6pm [NO REHEARSAL during winter break, 12/21-1/1-- resumes Saturday 1/2;

**Dress rehearsals:** Friday-Saturday February 5 & 6

**Performances:** Friday-Saturday February 12-13 & 19-20

### Program #4: YSP's *Brief, Focused Workshops*

**Regular rehearsal times and days:** Variable -- usually on Mondays and/or Thursdays, 5:00-8:00 pm.

**Dress rehearsals and Performances:** The 5th session is split: dress (first 2.5 hours) & performance (7-8 pm)

## LIST OF FOCUSED WORKSHOP TOPICS AND DATES FOR 2009-10:

**WHEN WE TALK OF HORSES:** Understanding, Seeing, and Conveying Shakespeare's Imagery  
9/28, 10/1, 5, 8 & 12 (performance)

**FAIN WOULD I DWELL ON FORM (PART I):** The Architecture of Shakespeare's Writing [NOTE: *This is one of two parts of our Architecture Workshop. The two are related, but they can be done in either order, and Part I is NOT prerequisite for Part II.*]

11/2, 5, 9, 12, & 16 (performance)

**FAIN WOULD I DWELL ON FORM (PART II):** The Architecture of Shakespeare's Writing [NOTE: *This is one of two parts of our Architecture Workshop. The two are related, but they can be done in either order, and Part I is NOT prerequisite for Part II.*]

*uisite for Part II.]*

Special 1-week workshop, meets 1-4pm Dec 28, 29, 30 & 31, and 4-7pm, Jan 2, with performance at 7pm

**THE WORD AGAINST THE WORD:** Poetic and Dramatic uses of Antitheses in Shakespeare

Jan 11, 14, 18, 21, & 25 (performance)

**HA, HA, KEEP TIME!** Understanding Rhythm And Stress In Shakespeare's Verse

Feb 8, 11, 15, 18, & 22 (performance)

**THE CAVE WHERE ECHO LIES:** Understanding and Using Shakespeare's Figures of Repetition

March 8, 11, 15, 18, & 22 (performance)

**O, IT CAME O'ER MY EAR:** The uses of Sound in Shakespeare

April 5, 8, 12, 15 & 19 (performance)

**HA, HA, KEEP TIME!** Understanding Rhythm And Stress In Shakespeare's Verse

Special 1-week workshop, meets 10am-1pm Aug 16, 17, 18, & 19, and 4-7pm, Aug 24, with performance at 7pm

Coming in 2010-11

**THAT WOULD BE SCANN'D:** An Advanced Workshop on Rhythm, Stress, and Scansion in Shakespeare

[NOTE: *This advanced workshop is offered EVERY OTHER year. To participate, you should have done the basic rhythm workshop, 'Ha! Ha! Keep Time!' at least once.*]

*Announcements of Shakespeare's Brief, Focused Workshops and their dates are sent by e-mail notification, and are available at the YSP website: [www.ysp.org](http://www.ysp.org). You may also send a query to [ysp@ysp.org](mailto:ysp@ysp.org). Enrollment is typically limited to six participants and to actors who have performed in at least one YSP play or workshop. Both adults and young actors can participate.*

**Program #5: "An Idle Conversation": Isaac Newton Hosts a Debate on Science, Art, and Religion, from G.B. Shaw's *In Good King Charles's Golden Days***

[NOTE: *This program is limited to veterans of YSP who have played at least one Shakespeare role or combination of roles totaling 200 lines or more.*]

**Introduction to the plays:** Wednesday, 10/14, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

**Rehearsals begin:** Wednesday, 10/21 (ends January 13)

**Regular rehearsal times and days:** All on Sunday mornings (9:00-12:00 noon) AND Wednesday evenings (5:00-8:00 p.m.). [NO REHEARSAL 11/25 OR during winter break, 12/21-1/1-- resumes Sunday 1/3; also note that on 12/13 rehearsal is 9:00-11:30 am only]

**Special rehearsals:** There will most likely be additional special rehearsals scheduled later in the rehearsal process. If so, these will likely take place on Friday evenings or other times during weekends.

**Dress rehearsals:** (Tentative) Friday - Monday, 1/15-1/18, and Wednesday, 1/20 (depending on enrollment).

**Performances:** (Tentative) Friday - Sunday 1/22-24, and again 1/29 - 31, times tba.

**Program #6: YSP Winter Show, Two G.B. Shaw short plays: *The Music Cure & Augustus Does His Bit***

[NOTE: *This program is limited to veterans of YSP who have played at least one Shakespeare role or combination of roles totaling 200 lines or more.*]

**Introduction** Saturday, 12/12, 1:00 p.m.-4 p.m.

**Rehearsals begin:** Saturday, 1/2 (1-4pm) (ends February 28).

**Regular rehearsal times and days:** Rehearsals are held on Saturdays 1:00-4:00 pm and Sundays 1:00 p.m.-4:00 pm. **No rehearsal Sunday 1/31, due to performances that day.**

**Optional weeknight rehearsals:** Tuesday evenings, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., beginning 1/5; ending 3/2.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *These weekday rehearsals are OPTIONAL for all actors. Each actor is encouraged to come as often as possible — and is welcome to attend as many (or as few) as will fit his or her schedule.*

**Dress rehearsals:** Thursday - Sunday, 3/4-7 (tentative: depends on enrollment).

**Performances:** Thursday-Sunday, 3/11-14 and again, 3/18-21 (tentative), times tba.

**Program #7: *The Tragedie of Othello, the Moor of Venice* (Daytime Home-school Project)**

**Introduction to the play and reading for parts:** Monday, 1/11 & Wednesday, 1/13 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

**Rehearsals begin:** Monday, 1/18.

**Regular rehearsal times and days:** All regular rehearsals held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. from 1/18 to 4/14. **[PLEASE NOTE: No rehearsals on 1/15, 3/29, 3/31 or 4/2.]**

**Special rehearsals:** There will most likely be additional special rehearsals scheduled later in the rehearsal process. Times will be arranged.

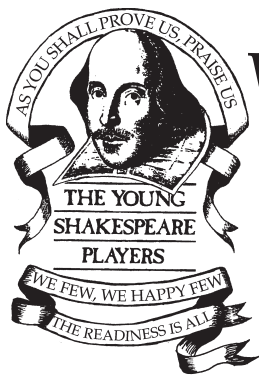
**Dress rehearsals begin at 8 a.m.:** Thursday, 4/15 & Friday 4/16; Monday 4/19; Tuesday 4/20; Wednesday, 4/21.

**Performances (evenings at 6 pm; matinees at 1 pm):** Wednesday-Sunday, 4/21-25 and again, 4/28-May 2, exact schedule depending on enrollment.

**For Further Information ...** please leave a message on the YSP phone line (608-258-0015) or email us at [ysp@ysp.org](mailto:ysp@ysp.org) or go to the YSP website: [www.ysp.org](http://www.ysp.org). And check your e-mail for notices of upcoming YSP productions and performances. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Richard DiPrima, Psy.D.

Anne DiPrima, Psy.D.



## What The News Media Have To Say...

*"Can kids do Shakespeare? Yes—uncut and unbelievable! ... [an] annual miracle ... an atmosphere in which the children teach each other ... All I wish is that I were young enough to join them."*

—Isthmus, *The Weekly Newspaper of Madison, WI*

*"In the end, all of the children feel good about their accomplishment because they've managed to master texts that are supposed to be beyond their understanding."*

—Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL

*"Anyone who wants to take part is accepted and guaranteed a speaking part. Let there be no mistake, these kids want to be here. ...A glance tells you these are serious actors performing one of the world's greatest plays with more emotion and understanding than many adults."*

— Highlights For Children Magazine

*"Magic!"*

—WMTV, Madison, WI

*"A remarkable thing is happening this week in Chicago. Young people are putting on a full-length performance of Shakespeare's Othello. But they're not just spouting memorized lines. They are performing with conviction and understanding."*

—CLTV News Channel, Chicago, IL

*"The incredible fact is that ...kids aged eight to sixteen ...were doing Shakespeare with a fervor and understanding that would do justice to graduate students in English."*

—Wisconsin Academy Review

*"Amazing! ... Really a unique program. The only program of its kind in the country... A wonderful experience for any young actor."*

—WISC-TV, Madison, WI

*"It is, most would say, an impossible task ... The Players' productions are no 'kiddie version' of Shakespeare ... Language is original, scripts are uncut ... All [the Players] have gained a mastery and appreciation for language that will benefit them in any endeavor."*

—Dane County Kids, Madison, WI

**"The group has thrived on a remarkably supportive collective experience, which these kids largely sustain themselves ... This theater group reaffirms the faith so many have lost in young people: Young people need not be sullen, disaffected and at-risk. YSP seems to bring out their innate humanity, strength, and talent."**

—The Capital Times, Madison

*Others acclaiming the Young Shakespeare players include the Chicago Sun-Times, CNN, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, the Wisconsin State Journal, the Hyde Park (Chicago) Herald, the Reader weekly newspaper of Chicago, and Madison Magazine.*

"I have most likely learned more in three months with The Young Shakespeare Players than I have in three years of school. ...YSP is simply amazing!"

**"I'll treasure this production for the rest of my life!"**

*"I have grown so much as an actress and a person. It has been so much fun. This is such an amazing environment. Growing up here is such a privilege!"*

**"Once again this has been an amazing experience... I feel that I have changed and grown so much!"**

"Every year I say 'thanks for the best summer ever!' Sorry to be so repetitive, but I'm going to say it again!!"

*A few more comments by recent YSP participants...*

"Thank you for providing a space — a community, really — where young people are shown so much respect and challenged to the very depths of their (sometimes small) beings. Many youth I know refer to YSP as the only place they can really be themselves, but I think it is more than that. It is one of the few places where I have been offered the chance to grow into who I wanted to be, and have then been given the tools to do so: an understanding of human nature, a supportive network of people who truly care about me, and the greatest words ever penned with which to achieve some small degree of articulacy on the subject. ...Thank you for creating (as is carved on the wall backstage) 'the best place in the world'."

"During this production I started to think of YSP almost as a second home; where I was...comfortable...trusted...cared about. It was both very surprising and wonderful to discover someplace where I felt that safe!"

"Thank you for providing this wonderful place!"

"The other day I was discussing with someone how this was such a life-changing experience... I don't think anything will be the same again. I wish I could bottle up this emotion, this completeness, and keep it forever!"

