



Advanced Shakesperience

The Whirlwind of Passion

Intense Shakespeare Training for High School Actors

"Bold, quick, forward, capable." Shakespeare's Richard III

For serious students who are looking for new challenges, we have extended our training to a more advanced format. Without losing our supportive atmosphere, we strive for a deeper, more serious kind of fun, with greater risks and opportunities. Topics will include:

- Monologue & Scene Study
- Linklater Voice Work
- Text tools for examining Shakespeare's verse
- Rigorous Stage Combat instruction
- Elizabethan Dance & Movement

Perhaps calling Advanced Shakesperience a camp is somewhat misleading because this is really a two-week acting workshop with a particular emphasis on the tools and techniques required to play with heightened texts like Shakespeare's. The workshop can be divided into four areas: Voice Work, Physical Work, Text Tools & Monologue/Scene Study.

Voice Work: Voice Training is not just for singers! Stage actors need powerful voices free enough to express the depth and breadth of human emotion. Actors working with Shakespeare need voices that can articulate with clarity and dexterity. Our work is based in Linklater Voice, but also draws from other voice techniques.

Physical Work: Stage actors need to be physically alive and able to command the stage with power, grace and deftness. We'll focus our training on Stage Combat and Dance (although not at all like the dance training that you'd find in musicals or even what is known as "Period Dancing"). Finally, acting in a Shakespeare play is like running a marathon and it requires the same kind of physical conditioning.

Text Tools: Texts like Shakespeare's are full of double meanings, emotionally charged vocabulary, clever wordplay and insightful verse structures. Learning to unlock these layers of language gives

actors more tools to communicate, charm, frighten and woo their fellow actors as well as the audience.

Monologue/Scene Study: Ultimately, we will take all of the lessons that we have learned and put them on stage, working on scenes and monologues. At the end of the two-week workshop, we'll present these scenes and monologues as a performance piece for friends and family. As actors, we always need to remember that we are hoping to entertain, inspire and educate audiences and we'll keep that final performance as our opportunity to show off our work to the world.

Each day will include a bit of each of the four areas, starting off with a thorough voice and physical warm-up. Then there will be a series of exercises and games leading us into our work with monologues and scenes.

It all may sound intense and serious, and in some ways it is. One of the keys to being a successful actor, however, is to ground everything with a generous amount of humor and play. Laughter and tears are the two best ways to dig into Shakespeare's texts and we'll have plenty of both.

In order to give each student the necessary attention, we are limiting this workshop to 12 participants. Instructors will be trained educators from Advice To The Players as well as from Shakespeare & Company's esteemed Education Program, based in Lenox, MA.

Price: \$295, includes 40 hours of instruction, plus the option of participating in our August production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Some scholarships are available – please request an application.

Dates:

Camp Instruction: July 11-July 22 (4:00-8:00, Monday-Friday)

Evening Recital: Friday, July 22 at 7:00

A Midsummer Night's Dream rehearsals: July 21-August 4

A Midsummer Night's Dream performances: August 5-August 14