

# Shakespeareance

**PRESENTS**

## *The 2021 Shakespeareance Summer Experience*



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*The Shakespeare Experience Summer Experience*  
*General Information*

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>What Is</i> SHAKESPEARIENCE</p>	<p><i>A twenty-three year old, critically acclaimed literacy program involving:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ An in-class workshop for students in Grades 3-12 designed to empower them with the possibilities of the English language. The workshop has expanded from twenty schools in the Toronto District School Board to over a hundred and fifty schools in more than two dozen Boards of Education all over Ontario and the US</li> <li>✓ An after-hours school program for at-risk</li> <li>✓ A popular summer program that offers under-resourced young people in a priority neighbourhood in the city an opportunity to get involved in an intensive, four-week rehearsal process culminating in a presentation of scenes from Shakespeare’s plays, tied together by a theme for family and friends at a professional theatre.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Program Description</i></p>	<p>SHAKESPEARIENCE is pleased to offer the sixteenth season of its summer program for students in Grades 7 and up where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Certified teacher/actors, working with professionally trained artists will rehearse two groups of 12-14 participants in scenes from the Shakespearean canon, tied together by a theme</li> <li>✓ Actors from the SHAKESPEARIENCE roster will visit the workshop and demonstrate professional rehearsal techniques along with experts in the field of voice, improvisation, stage combat, mask and movement.</li> <li>✓ Each day will begin with a physical and vocal warm-up offered by trained and experienced specialists.</li> <li>✓ This intensive rehearsal process will culminate with a presentation for family and friends on the final day of the program at a professional theatre in Hamilton.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dates</i></p>	<p>Rehearsals Begin:                   Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2021  Rehearsals End:                     Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Times</i></p>	<p>Rehearsals run from 9:30 AM-3:00 PM Monday through Friday.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Location</i></p>	<p>Rehearsals take place VIRTUALLY online through Zoom</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Attendance</i></p>	<p>Please note that it is expected that anyone applying to the SHAKESPEARIENCE SUMMER EXPERIENCE will be available to attend for the entire program from Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> , 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u><i>If a participant is unable to make the commitment to appear every day, an application form should not be submitted.</i></u></b></p>

<i>Registration Form</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants interested in applying to the SHAKESPEARIENCE SUMMER EXPERIENCE must complete in full and sign the registration form</li> <li>• The parent/guardian of every participant must sign the registration form</li> <li>• The registration form should be mailed or emailed as an attachment where they will be reviewed by the staff of SHAKESPEARIENCE PERFORMING ARTS</li> <li>• As admittance to the program will, to a large extent, be based on a <i>first-come/first-served</i> model, the sooner the registration form is handed in, the better</li> </ul>								
<i>Confirmation</i>	<p>Please note that the program is limited to a maximum number of participants and the return rate from year to year averages about 80%. There are not many spaces for new people and all of them are likely to be filled by the end of March. Once the limit has been reached. SHAKESPEARIENCE will keep a waiting list. A confirmation letter of those selected will be emailed on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> along with other pertinent information for the first day of the program on July 5<sup>th</sup>.</p>								
<i>Significant Dates</i>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021</td> <td>Application deadline</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021</td> <td>Information packages sent to participants</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021</td> <td>First day of rehearsals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021</td> <td>Culminating presentation</td> </tr> </table>	April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Application deadline	June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Information packages sent to participants	July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	First day of rehearsals	July 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Culminating presentation
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<i>Fee</i>	<p><b><i>There is no charge</i></b> to attend the SHAKESPEARIENCE SUMMER EXPERIENCE. The costs of providing the program are covered by our generous sponsors and donors.</p>								
<i>Previous Participants' Comments</i>	<p>It has changed my life. And it can do the same for any other kid out there who is willing to let it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Emma</p> <p>I cannot adequately stress the amount of fun I've had and learning I've done in just 25 days. Shakespearience reinforces powerful values and habits such as responsibility, punctuality, awareness for others as well as yourself, attention to detail and so much more</p> <p style="text-align: right;">D'Nean</p> <p>The best summer camp that I've been to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Alan</p>								

*The Shakespearience Summer Experience 2021*  
*Application Form*  
**PLEASE PRINT ALL OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION**

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ APT. # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

HEALTH CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES, PLEASE GIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY ALLERGIES Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES, PLEASE NOTE THE SOURCE OF THE ALLERGY, E.G. PEANUTS, BEES, DUST,  
ETC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CELL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

For more information or to send the application in as an attachment  
Email Marvin Karon, Executive Director, Shakespearience  
At [spsx2012@hotmail.com](mailto:spsx2012@hotmail.com)

## Shakespeareance Summer program provides campers with a unique learning opportunity

Marvin Karon, executive director of the camp, said once kids begin to understand Shakespeare “they just are so excited.”



By [ELLEN BRAIT](#) Staff Reporter  
Sat., July 22, 2017

Rather than hitting the beach with friends or seeing a movie, Celes Emmerson asked to work weekends in July. This leaves the 19-year-old's weekdays open, so she can pursue something unusual for a teenager: learning Shakespeare.

This is Emmerson's seventh year attending the Shakespeareance summer program, which she initially attended on a friend's suggestion who knew she enjoyed acting. Despite being unfamiliar with Shakespeare when she began, Emmerson now finds it “fun to read and understand” his plays.

“I’m in a place doing something that I love surrounded by people that are just so amazing,” Emmerson said. “And I’ve never felt so at home as I do at Shakespearience, honestly.”

The Shakespearience summer program for under-resourced adolescents, which began in the summer of 2005, helps kids in grades seven through 12 understand and appreciate the work of William Shakespeare. They spend four weeks in July improving their acting skills with professional actors and voice, stage combat, movement and improvisation teachers.

The Fresh Air Fund has been supporting the free summer program since 2008, according to Marvin Karon, executive director of the camp.

Shakespearience Performing Arts, which runs the camp, also has an in-school program and an after-hours program during the school year for at-risk youth.

The challenge of learning and understanding Shakespeare is what makes the camp so special, Karon said.

“Kids come in and have no idea what they’re saying during the first week of July. By the end of the process, it’s crystal clear and they know exactly what they’re saying and why,” he said.

Revill Villanueva, 16, who’s attending the camp for the first time, found this helpful as English is not his first language.

“Before this program Shakespeare for me was hard,” he said. “When I began to get it and it began to make sense, I realized this is Netflix back in the olden days. It’s so cool!”

The camp also helps kids learn “all those soft social skills that are in demand these days,” Karon said. The camp’s mission is “character, confidence, communication.”

“They think, ‘if I can do Shakespeare, I can do anything.’ That’s where confidence comes in,” Karon said. “Elizabethan language presents the problem and by overcoming that problem, that’s where the empowerment comes from.”

But the “socializing aspect” is also very important to the camp, Karon said.

This year, one camper, a young girl who lives in a foster home and spends much of her time alone, has flourished at the camp, he said.

“On the first day she was very, very nervous but today I just saw her on the steps with another participant going over lines and laughing and talking despite not knowing this guy before,” Karon said.

The four-week program always finishes with a performance of scenes from Shakespeare for family and friends at a theatre in Toronto. Emmerson and Villanueva both have important parts this year. Emmerson will be playing Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Villanueva will be playing Caesar in *Julius Caesar* and Sir John Falstaff in *Henry IV*.

While Villanueva joined the camp to learn about acting, a career he hopes to pursue one day, he said the program has also created a community through which he's made a number of new friends.

Emmerson added: “I just feel that the program attracts so many similar people with similar interests, whether it be in acting or Shakespeare or so on. And the atmosphere is just really nice.”

## *The Reviews Are In...*

*SHAKESPEARIENCE has more than one thousand testimonials similar to the ones below from artists, teachers, students, participants and parents, supporting the school workshops, summer and after hours programs we have been offering since 1998*

### *Summer Program:* *PARTICIPANTS*

I will never be able to put into words just how amazing this program has been for me. I will never be able to properly describe just how incredible it is. I can say, with complete confidence, that **it has changed my life. And it can do the same for any other kid out there who is willing to let it.**

Emma Keil-Vine

My name is Mary and I can honestly say that... **Shakespeare has changed my life for the better.** I am so thankful for everything this program has taught me and the doors it has opened for me. This summer has been one of my best, and I can confidently say that **I would return to Shakespearience without a doubt next year!**

Mary

The Shakespearience Summer Experience is an amazing program, which **makes learning fun**. This program has improved the span of my focus, has dramatically increased my vocabulary, and most importantly has improved my reading and speaking skills.

Alexander

I cannot adequately stress the amount of fun I've had and learning I've done in just 25 days. **Shakespearience reinforces powerful values and habits such as responsibility, punctuality, awareness for others as well as yourself, attention to detail and a countless amount more**. The relationships I've built, the lessons I've learned and the interest for Shakespeare that has been genuinely sparked is what makes this program so invaluable. Thank you.

D'Neen

**Shakespearience has the amazing ability to turn something that seems laborious and tedious into a fun experience**. Next summer, I am sure I will come back. Shakespearience is now a huge part of my summer, and I am definitely not keen on losing it.

Sophie

I was so lucky to have gotten picked for a spot for Shakespearience! Shakespearience not only helped me improve my acting but it also **helped me boost my confidence** when performing in front of people which I am sure will help me. This summer was **one of the best summers of my life** and I really hope that I will be able to be a part of this wonderful experience again for the following years!

Doen

I had an amazing time at Shakespearience. **It was a learning experience**. Aside from improving my acting skills, **I also learned a lot about discipline and focus**. I would definitely recommend this program to anyone, even if they're not too interested in drama or very knowledgeable in the work of Shakespeare, as **there is so much you can take from this program and put into your everyday life**.

Helen

Everyone was really open and supportive, and overall it was **the best summer camp that I've been to**. **My confidence and my communication skills improved greatly**. I hope Shakespearience happens again next year!!!!

Allan

## *Summer Program Parent Feedback*

I know we are barely past the Christmas holiday season but was wondering if it was too soon to ask you to hold a place for my daughter, She had such a great time and is very interested in enrolling once again next July.

As you may recall, **Victoria has dyslexia and reading has always been a challenge for her. So you can imagine my surprise and delight when her teachers told me how amazed they were by the marked improvement in her reading skills this year...which I think is directly related to the enhanced, higher level language she was exposed to as part of the Shakespearience rehearsal process.**

You and your team do such incredible work and **the fact that you provide your programs free of charge to kids and families who would otherwise be unable to send their children to the kind of camp your organization runs, with its sophisticated educational content and high professional standards, is a godsend.**

Christine Bevins, Mother of Participant

My son attended Shakespearience Summer Experience in 2014 and loved it so much that he is still quoting Shakespeare almost 2 months later! As a child with a learning disability and mild autism he often feels like the odd man out. The staff and participants made him feel comfortable immediately and he now has two close friends from the program who are also planning on attending next year. The confidence he has gained in himself and his ability to make friends is extraordinary and could not have come at a better time as he is starting high school in the fall. **Communication, reading other people's reactions, and staying focused when you are one of the "extras" in the scene, these are just some examples of skills that are directly transferrable for him since all of these skills are exactly what a child with social interaction issues needs to learn explicitly.** To the staff of Shakespearience – well done!

Heather, Mother of Participant

It was such a pleasure to watch Eugene having fun and thoroughly enjoying performing on the stage. I am so grateful to Shakespearience for providing such a wonderful opportunity for young people. **You are making a huge impact on young people's lives. It was so wonderful and amazing.** Hope Eugene can join next year. Thank you!

Sue Kim, Mother of Participant

This was Erica's second year participating in the summer program and **we can't say enough about how great it's been for her development as a person** and as a student of theater. **Erica had learned many life lessons through the program- a tremendous sense of accomplishment from making a commitment and working collaboratively with others toward a common goal.** We're thankful that a great program like this is available and would love to see the program continue. We also want to thank Marvin, Ruby and the team for all the passion and commitment to make the program possible!!! Thank you!!!

Michelle Paek...mother of Erica

