



SHAKESPEARE: SCENES, SONNETS & SONGS

Art Form: Theatre

Style: Shakespeare

Culture: English

Technical Needs

- ❑ CD player (accessible to actors)
- ❑ Large room divider (20' x 8') or moveable blackboard for "backstage" area
- ❑ prefer stage or riser, 20' x 10'

Meet the Artists

Village Players Theatre, a non-profit organization founded in 1959, promotes the arts through theatrical productions and educational programs that encourage cultural understanding and embrace diversity in the Village of Oak Park and the surrounding communities.

Village Players Theatre is proud to be a vibrant part of Chicago's cultural history, promoting a creative spirit that comes alive in its productions and educational programs. Each production features some of the area's most promising and talented professional performers and designers. Village Players Theatre is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres and the West Suburban Theatre Connection.

About the Performance

Shakespeare: Scenes, Sonnets and Songs is an introduction to and a celebration of the works of the greatest writer in the English language: William Shakespeare. In this production, various "myths" about the plays and poems of the Bard of Avon are explored, including the accusation that "Shakespeare isn't funny" and that "Shakespeare is boring." In the space of 45 minutes, these misconceptions are turned upside down, as the show features hilarious scenes from "Comedy of Errors" and "Taming of the Shrew" as well as an eye-popping fight scene from "Romeo and Juliet" and a touching portrayal of young love, as the actors woo

each other using only Shakespearean sonnets. The show is an educational, informative and wildly-entertaining look at why Shakespeare continues to be the world's most popular playwright even 400 years after his death.

Contextual Information

Despite enjoying four centuries worth of undimmed admiration, William Shakespeare remains a mystery to many people. His plays are performed in virtually every language on Earth, his characters (such as Romeo, Hamlet and Falstaff) have become iconic literary figures and his storylines have been adapted into countless Hollywood films. Yet his works remain rooted in certain myths; that his writing is difficult to understand, that his plays are boring and that his comedies aren't...well...funny.

Luckily, these myths are easily dispelled. A brief look at just a few scenes from Shakespeare's works is all that it takes to foster a new appreciation for the writing of this, the most celebrated author on the planet. Think Shakespeare is boring? Have a look at the Tybalt/Romeo/Mercutio fight scene from "Romeo and Juliet." Shakespeare wasn't funny? Try two scenes from Shakespeare's most hilarious shows, "Taming of the Shrew" and "Comedy of Errors." And for anyone who doubts that Shakespeare wrote the most romantic verse ever to appear on a page, we have fashioned a wooing scene between young lovers, where the only words spoken are the lines of Shakespeare's most celebrated sonnets.

Shakespeare: Scenes, Sonnets and Songs is the perfect introduction for young audiences to help them appreciate the artistry and power of this legendary writer.

Vocabulary

Stage Directions:	specific instructions written by the playwright telling the actor what to do or where to move; also, specific areas of the stage (see upstage, downstage, stage right and stage left)
Dialogue:	what the characters say to each other
Setting:	where and when the story or play takes place
Props:	the objects used on stage by an actor in a play
Costume:	what an actor wears to make him or herself look like their character
Actor:	a person who portrays a character on stage

Director:	a person who tells the actors where to move on stage and creates the shape of the play
Rehearsal:	practice of a play or other performance in preparation for a performance with an audience
Character:	a person in a story or play
Character Trait:	a quality which describes someone's behavior or physical appearance
Script:	the text of the play that the actor uses
Blocking:	where an actor moves on stage
Stage Manager:	the person in charge of running a rehearsal
Cue:	the line, sound or action which signals the performer to begin speaking or moving
Downstage:	the area of the stage that is closest to the audience
Upstage:	the area of the stage that is farthest from the audience
Stage Left:	the area of the stage to the actor's left when facing the audience
Stage Right:	the area of the stage to the actor's right when facing the audience