

The Young Bards is a group of students age 12- 18 who work to improve their knowledge of William Shakespeare and his text through a summer intensive program. This program seeks to train young actors in methods of expression and interpretation of classical text. Students will learn and grow in their understanding of theater, iambic pentameter, physical expression, and emotional commitment to a character. Students will work on scene work as well as acting exercises that expand their skills.

Each year, students will work with a guest director to expand their access to varying directors and directing styles. All directors will strive to incorporate the National Arts Standards, according to Capitol Shakespeare's expectations and under the supervision of our Artistic Director. These include:

~collaborating with director and fellow actors to write a scene introduction that establishes mood, tone, setting, and connect the scenes to current events, local history and culture, or the students themselves. These intros will be researched and written by the students as a way of allowing the audience a view into the playwrights original intent for the scene as well as how it relates to society today

~analyzing the text and play which their scene is from, and identifying the climax, resolution, and plot structure of their scene to better understand their scene and character

~creating a written backstory or journal of their thoughts and discoveries regarding their character that also has some connection to the student's past and life experiences

~participating in exercises that expand their creativity and their ability to create vibrant characters through physical gesture, facial expression, and voice work

~implementing their thoughts and ideas into the character consistently and intentionally throughout rehearsals to grow in their ability to emotionally commit to a character as well as bring out the intention of the text

~working with mentors (mainstage actors) at coordinated rehearsals to experience how highly trained and skilled actors approach the creation of a character, and to help students answer questions that arise about their scene's text as well as how to approach a character emotionally/physically and present it to an audience

~focusing on presenting Shakespeare's words in a way that express the characters emotions as well as the playwrights intention for the character so that audiences have a deeper understanding of the texts of William Shakespeare

~participating in peer evaluations of other scenes, including mainstage scenes, in an effort to better understand the ideas and skill being taught by the director and their mentors. The director will create an formal or informal guideline that students should use when talking about and critiquing other students work that is based in the skills being taught and will foster growth in the actors being critiqued

~coordinating within their scene as well as the scenes of others to crease a cohesive and interesting final workshop performance for an audience

~performing their scenes with introductions in a workshop setting for the public and parents/ family after the conclusion of rehearsals. In addition, scenes will be performed prior to a mainstage production of Capitol Shakespeare.