Camp Shakespeare 2021
Information Packet

Please Note:
Camp Shakespeare will not be accepting new applications for 2021.

Following safety guidelines outlined by the University of Texas, the 2020 Camp Shakespeare sessions and selected students were rescheduled to the summer of 2021. We invite all interested in the program to attend our 2021 performances.

Application materials for the summer of 2022 will be available in November of 2021. We will begin accepting applications after that time.

Two sessions:
Session I: Sunday, June 6 – Sunday, June 20, 2021
Session II: Sunday, June 27 – Sunday, July 11, 2021

Camp Site:
Rancho Pillow, 11222 Schuster Rd., Round Top, Tx. 78954
ranchopillow.com

Camp Fee: $1,500.00

Plays:
Session I: Much Ado About Nothing
Session II: Twelfth Night

Four public performances of each play.

**Session One:**
- Thursday June 17 3:00pm Scottish Rite Theatre, Austin
- Friday June 18 3:30pm Crystal Theatre, Gonzales
- Saturday June 19 7:00pm Winedale Barn, Winedale
- Sunday June 20 2:00pm Winedale Barn, Winedale

**Session Two:**
- Thursday July 8 3:00PM Scottish Rite Theatre, Austin
- Friday July 9 3:30pm Crystal Theatre, Gonzales
- Saturday July 10 7:00pm Winedale Barn, Winedale
- Sunday July 11 2:00pm Winedale Barn, Winedale
**CAMP SHAKESPEARE 2021**

Camp Shakespeare is a two-week University of Texas residential summer camp for young people, ages 11-17,* dedicated to exploring Shakespeare through performance. “Exploring” and “performance” are key words here. They suggest that we are finding our way not through rehearsals but performances. Every moment is performance. Campers are challenged to play out their interpretative discoveries on stage.

(*The younger applicants must have reached 11 by January 1, 2021.)*

All of the elements of the program are intended to promote an understanding and appreciation of the works of Shakespeare, and of their extraordinarily complex and penetrating vision of human life. Campers develop, test and transcend their sense of self through their exploration of Shakespearean characters. What we pursue here is the conviction that anyone can live life more fully through a personal encounter with Shakespeare’s art.

Camp Shakespeare seeks kids who work well with others, who are inventive, elastic, eager to play, explore and take risks, and are ready to rumble when they arrive.

Camp Shakespeare accepts applications from candidates anywhere, in public, private, or home schools. Experience with theater or with Shakespeare is not necessary. Commitment to working and playing with others is. Each session will be composed of 14 students.

**DAILY SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITY**

Campers begin their day quite early, at 6:30 with cabin-cleaning and other assigned duties before meeting in groups or with the staff to work on lines, characterization, or a scene at 7:00. A brief period of physical and vocal exercise follows. Then breakfast. Morning and afternoon work/play sessions (from 8:15-4:00) take place in the Theater Barn at Winedale and the air-conditioned Henkel Hall in Round Top. Every lunch is a picnic, prepared and set out by campers. Late afternoon sessions (4:00-6:00) are busy with Journal writing, relaxation exercises,
quiet time, painting, mask-making, lines, and preparing for the evening. Improvised “problem-solving” exercises, singing, dancing, and free improvisational play follow supper. The day concludes with film sequences of Shakespeare's plays and Cabin Time, wherein campers “unwind” and exchange responses to accomplishments of the day. Lights out: 9:15 p.m.

**CAMP DATES**

Camp Shakespeare will offer two sessions for Summer 2021

Two sessions:
Session I: Sunday, June 6 – Sunday, June 20, 2021
Session II: Sunday, June 27 – Sunday, July 11, 2021

**THE PLAYS**

Session I: *Much Ado About Nothing*
Session II: *Twelfth Night*

**PUBLIC PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Campers will be performing at the following dates and venues:

**Session One:**
- Thursday: June 17, 3:00pm, Scottish Rite Theatre, Austin
- Friday: June 18, 3:30pm, Crystal Theatre, Gonzales
- Saturday: June 19, 7:00pm, Winedale Barn, Winedale
- Sunday: June 20, 2:00pm, Winedale Barn, Winedale

**Session Two:**
- Thursday: July 8, 3:00pm, Scottish Rite Theatre, Austin
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**CAMP FEE**

The cost of Camp Shakespeare 2021 is $1,500. Some scholarships are available. Please contact either Robin Grace Soto or Doc Ayres for information.

**CAMP SITE**

The site of Camp Shakespeare 2021 is Rancho Pillow, a 20 acre comfortable country and creative environment near Round Top, Texas. Students enjoy the privilege of using and the responsibility of caring for these beautifully-decorated 19th century Texas buildings, which serve as dormitories, dining, and gathering spaces. See ranchopillow.com.

**STAFF**

Camp Director: Robin Grace Soto. Now in her 12th Camp year, Robin holds a B.A. in Theater from St. Edward's University and is a graduate of the Actors Theatre of Louisville apprentice program.

Director of Mission: Professor Jim (Doc) Ayres, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, The University of Texas. Founding Director of Shakespeare at Winedale and Camp Shakespeare.

Doc and Robin will be assisted by three other experienced staff each session.
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Candidates were notified of their acceptance on or around March 7th, 2020 and are expected to acknowledge acceptance by e-mail. To secure registration, parents of Campers selected should send the full ($1,500.00) fee payment to Professor Ayres, Camp Shakespeare, P.O. Box 202, Round Top, Tx, 78954. Checks should be made “TO” The University of Texas and marked “FOR” Camp Shakespeare.

CAMP POLICIES

At Camp Shakespeare, we hope to create together a highly original, extraordinary learning experience. We have a country setting for that, much like Shakespeare’s forest of Arden or the wood outside Athens. There is a different clock here. This world is filled with magic, wonder, song, and words and we do it without cell phones, computers, ipods, radios, or electronic games. The only TV game show here is Shakespeare. We do encourage campers to bring musical instruments of any kind. Upon acceptance into the program, campers are notified of what items to bring and not to bring.
TELEPHONE CONTACT AND VISITATION

Camp staff members notify parents of a camper’s illness and/or problems with following the daily schedule or working with others, explaining how we are addressing those difficulties. Parents wishing to contact campers for any reason should call any of the five staff members at any time.

PREPARATION FOR CAMP

Upon acceptance, campers will be sent a text of the play chosen (with plenty of space for questions and annotation), role assignments, information about what to bring to Camp, a Release and Indemnification form and a Medical History report (to be returned by mail before arrival). Campers prepare by reading and re-reading the play and by working toward understanding language and characterization. Campers are expected to have memorized all of their assigned lines by the arrival date. Campers may at any time e-mail any of the staff for assistance, advice, suggestions, or answers to questions arising during this period of preparation.

Campers who arrive at Camp without the preparation noted above may be dismissed from Camp.

A SUMMARY

Camp Shakespeare seeks kids who:

- work well with others
- are ready and eager to speak up, make observations and respond to others from the beginning
- are inventive, elastic, eager to explore and take risks
- are ready to rumble (get involved, assist others, take initiative) when they arrive
- desire to live, work, and play with a positive attitude, cooperatively and generously with others
- have a desire for shared and disciplined play experience
- have a willingness to try new things, risk, and explore and do those
- have a firm commitment to the ensemble approach

FURTHER INFORMATION

Our web site, shakespeare-winedale.org, carries up-to-date information about the summer camp. Parents and candidates are urged to check the site weekly for new information and possible changes. Questions of any kind about Camp Shakespeare 2021 should be directed to Doc Ayres at jayres@cvctx.com and Robin Grace Soto at robingracesoto@gmail.com

The following observations by a former (1980) Shakespeare at Winedale student whose daughter (age 12) attended Camp Shakespeare, and the parent of a recent camper (age 16), say quite a bit about what happens at Camp Shakespeare:

Their accomplishment [at Camp] is the more remarkable when we consider that none of these students are theater or drama students but only kids interested in working together to explore a play through performance. In the process, their play becomes a vehicle for their exploration of language, of social encounter and problem-solving, for developing self-confidence and self-esteem, verbal and written expression, and, through Shakespeare, for gaining insight into the human condition.

Looking in from the outside, it’s a pretty risky thing that Camp Shakespeare is doing. I actually think that’s why it works. It creates the right community for those kids – it’s not about me, it’s about us; it’s about the play. The kids realize what amazing stuff they can accomplish in just two weeks’ time by letting go. The camp empowers kids to be themselves and use what they’ve got, and puts faith in them that they can do it. Believing they can do it, they do!