

December 2008

To: Prospective participants in the National Institute on Teaching Shakespeare  
From: Kevin G. Coleman, Project Director

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in Shakespeare & Company's 4 week summer institute for teachers, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> institute we have offered, and we are tremendously excited about our continuing collaboration with scholars, educators and theatre artists. Together we will investigate the dynamics of Elizabethan playing conditions in a variety of aspects as they specifically relate to Shakespeare's two plays, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*. This document provides a description of the Institute, as well as the application process.

**Some basic details:**

Dates:	Sunday, July 5 – Saturday, August 1, 2009
Location:	Smith College, Northampton, MA
Sponsor:	Shakespeare & Company, Lenox, MA
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>March 2, 2009</b>
Notification:	April 1, 2009
Deadline for accepting/declining a place:	April 15, 2009

**A bit of background on us:**

Currently celebrating our 32<sup>nd</sup> year in the culturally-rich Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts, Shakespeare & Company is a theatre company composed of artists and educators who strive to create performance, training and education programs of unprecedented excellence. All of the Company's work is rooted in the classical ideals of inquiry, balance, and harmony, and much like the Elizabethan renaissance, is fueled by a love of poetry, physical prowess, and the mysteries of the universe. With a core of over 150 artists, the company performs Shakespeare, generating opportunities for collaboration between actors, directors, scholars and designers of all races, nationalities, and backgrounds. Shakespeare & Company is internationally recognized for its original, in-depth, classical training and performance methods as well as its education programs that inspire a new generation of teachers and students to discover the resonance of Shakespeare's truths in the everyday world, demonstrating the influence that classical theatre can have within a community.

Shakespeare & Company was based for its first 24 years at The Mount, the turn-of-the-century home of novelist Edith Wharton. The Company then transitioned to its new 33-acre campus in the center of Lenox, where we are working to create an international center for Shakespeare study and performance. A cornerstone of this project is the detailed reconstruction of the Rose, the playhouse where Shakespeare first acted and his earliest plays were performed. The Rose was originally built on London's Bankside in 1587. While there are many recreations of the larger Globe playhouse around the world, this will be the only reconstruction of the more intimate Rose. The project is currently in the planning stage, and is being developed by a transatlantic team of scholars, archeologists, architects, theater professionals, historians and timber framers; the same group – with some additions—that recently completed the new Globe in London.

The Institute will take place at Smith College during the height of Shakespeare & Company's 32<sup>nd</sup> season. In addition to the 2 mainstage productions – yet to be finalized (*Hamlet* and *Othello* in short-run remounts are also under consideration) – the Company has traditionally performed modern and contemporary language plays, most recently in our newly constructed Bernstein Theatre. Currently proposed are other productions on our Rose Footprint playhouse, a six actor

introduction to Shakespeare, *Wild and Whirling Words*, a yet to be named Elizabethan play (Marlowe or Jonson are under consideration). The Rose Footprint playhouse is a temporary performance space which closely approximates the dimensions and scale of that famous playhouse. We use this space in the summer to explore the actor/audience relationship within Elizabethan playing conditions, prior to the re-construction of the playhouse proper.

**What we'll be doing:**

The institute will focus on two of Shakespeare's tragedies: *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*; two of Shakespeare's most compelling tragedies, usually required reading in the high school curriculum. Both plays speak powerful and beautiful language. Each play depends upon the actor/audience relationship that was so potent in those Elizabethan playhouses. We might also spend some time on *Hamlet* and *Othello* (from last year's season) should our busy schedule permit.

In addition to an in-depth examination of the plays themselves, we will also be investigating the physical and practical considerations of the Elizabethan playing conditions and the playhouses themselves. Presentations by visiting scholars, working sessions led by the Project Director and others, and close examinations of the texts will be augmented by attending professional productions of the new summer season offerings. Additionally, participants will memorize lines, rehearse and perform specific scenes from the selected plays. It is important to mention here that no acting experience is necessary – none – only a willingness to play: that is, be intellectually, imaginatively and emotionally available to Shakespeare's language. The rehearsal process will become an additional means of inquiry, ending in a performance/presentation for each play. We will attend performances of each of the summer season Shakespeare productions in our Founders' Theatre, the design of which was inspired by the principles of the Elizabethan playhouse. Tickets to these performances are provided to participants as part of the institute.

Participants will investigate the plays:

- as scholars: through research, readings, lecture and seminar-style discussions with visiting scholars and each other;
- as players: through rehearsing selected scenes and confronting the practical considerations of performance, lead by Shakespeare & Company's theatre artists;
- as educators: through the collaborative creation of lessons and instructional approaches with Shakespeare & Company's education artists, as well as strategies and models for evaluating curriculum and assessing student learning, and
- as audience: through attending professional productions as part of Shakespeare & Company's summer performance season.

Week at a glance (some highlights):

Week One:

- Introduction to each other and immersion into the work of the institute.
- Encountering Shakespeare's texts as performance scripts in the Elizabethan setting.
- Ideas for classroom applications and student assessment

Week Two:

- Working as an actor, director and dramaturge
- The Elizabethan playhouse: influences on the theatricality of the plays
- *Romeo and Juliet*: investigating the play through scholarship, discussion, rehearsal and performance
- Classroom applications and assessments

Week Three:

- Working as an actor, director and dramaturge continued

- The Elizabethan Playhouses: historical and cultural influences on the plays
- *Julius Caesar*: investigating the play through scholarship, discussion, rehearsal and performance (possibly on the Rose Footprint)
- Classroom applications and assessments

Week Four:

- Final projects, presentations of sample lesson plans, new approaches to teaching,
- Classroom applications and assessments.

A Typical Day at the Institute:

7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:00	Daily check-in, Physical and vocal warm-up
10:15 – 12:00	Working session*
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch
1:30 – 3:15	Working session*
3:30 – 5:15	Working session*
5:15 – 5:45	Reflections on the day, closure
5:45 – 7:00	Dinner
Evening	Evenings are time for reading and reflection, collaborative projects, trips to attend performances or other cultural adventures.

\*The working sessions include: lectures, seminars and discussions with visiting scholars, voice classes, Elizabethan dance, stage combat, clown, scene rehearsals, classroom applications, assessments, and discussions with the Project Director and others. Each day will include a mix of these types of activities.

Participants will be engaged and challenged intellectually, physically, imaginatively and emotionally, with myriad opportunities for discovery, which can be applied to their work with students. While much of the work of the Institute is physical, activities can be adapted for participants with disabilities. All of the scene work and rehearsal activities are designed for teachers with little or no acting or directing experience. Most of these activities are also directly transferable to the classroom setting for students with little or no acting experience. Some of these activities are solely for the personal and professional development of the teachers.

While the majority of the work of the Institute is guided exploration, participants will also conduct independent study. These projects focus on the assigned scenes, and include: in-depth examinations of the text, study of the source texts (facsimiles of first folio and quarto editions), research (both academic and practical) on the staging of the scenes, and creation of plans for classroom activities inspired by the scenes. Each week of the Institute involves 30 – 40 hours of classes and structured time, allowing most evenings and two afternoons (Wednesday and Saturday) each week for unscheduled time, in addition to a weekly day off (Sunday). Participants will work both independently and collaboratively with fellow participants, will keep a journal of their research and reflections, and will present scene work and lesson plans for fellow participants.

**Who will be teaching:**

As the project director, Kevin Coleman will be responsible for the design and execution of the Institute. In addition to overseeing all aspects of the Institute's administration and delivery, he will be the primary teaching faculty for text investigation, scene rehearsals, classroom applications and assessments. He will also help participants make connections among the multiple strands of their investigations. He is a professional theatre artist with an academic background, and as the director of Shakespeare & Company's Education Program, he has worked with teachers, scholars and students throughout the country for more than 30 years. Under his

direction, the Education Program has been designated a “Champion of Change” by the Arts Education Partnership (the US Dept. of Education, et al), the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities, the MacArthur Foundation and the GE Foundation. In March of 2005, the Education Program and Mr. Coleman were awarded the Massachusetts Commonwealth Award, the state’s highest honor for the arts, sciences and humanities. In January 2007, he received the “Coming Up Taller” Award at the White House for the Shakespeare in the Courts Project, a program designed in collaboration with the Juvenile Court in Berkshire County. He will be joined by Russ McDonald, a well known Shakespearean scholar, author, and editor of numerous editions of the plays; Neil Freeman, whose books and research are considered groundbreaking in the performance of Shakespeare’s texts; Franklin J. Hildy, the director of the Shakespeare Globe Center (USA) Research Archive, and the Professor and Chair, Department of Theatre, University of Maryland; Julian Bowsher, the Museum of London archeologist who discovered the remains of the Rose in 1989; Maynard Mack, Jr., professor of English at the University of Maryland, who has co-directed other institutes funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and has served as Senior Scholar for the Folger Library Shakespeare Program for high school students for the past 20 years. Professor Mack has been a resident scholar at four of Shakespeare & Company’s previous National Institutes on Teaching Shakespeare. He will lead the scholarly investigation of the selected plays during the central two weeks, presenting the texts and reviewing criticism. Additional faculty will include Professor Robert Davis, who will be the Master Teacher of Voice for the Institute. Mr. Davis is Professor of Acting, Voice and Speech at The Hartt School (University of Hartford), has been a faculty member at Shakespeare & Company since 1995, and has been an Institute faculty member for several of the National Institutes on Teaching Shakespeare. Susan Dibble, in addition to being Shakespeare & Company’s Director of Movement Training and resident choreographer, Susan has chaired the Theatre Arts program at Brandeis University. Her extensive training and experience include a specialization in historical dance and movement, with emphasis on Elizabethan and Jacobean periods. Michael Cremonini is a Curriculum and Assessment Specialist who teaches at Springfield Central High School (an arts-magnet school) and attended Shakespeare & Company’s first National Institute in 1988. He has been a member of the teaching faculty ever since. Jo Ann Valle, a teacher and Administrator of the Education Program at Shakespeare & Company, will serve as the on-site coordinator. As teacher, director and education artist Ms. Valle has an informed perspective on the company’s work in the educational system.

**Where you’ll be living:**

The Institute will be housed at Smith College in Northampton, MA. Smith will be providing the housing, dining, classroom, library, computer facilities and internet access. We will have exclusive use of our own residence hall, Gardiner House, which is convenient to the classrooms, library, and dining hall. Participants will have 24-hour access to the internet in the residence hall, and access and borrowing privileges in the library. Our residence hall is centrally located on the Smith campus.

Smith College is embedded in the town of Northampton. According to the Boston Globe, “This small city offers more restaurants and shops, certainly more galleries, theatres and performance venues than most urban centers dozens of times its size. Add two rivers, mountain views, landscaped parks and meadow walks, and you begin to see why people call it paradise.” We couldn’t have said it better ourselves.

An hour away are the Berkshires, “American’s Cultural Resort,” and Shakespeare & Company’s home in Lenox. Some of the other highlights of the Berkshire neighborhood include: Tanglewood (the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra), Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, the Berkshire Opera Company, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the Berkshire Theatre Festival and Barrington Stage Company, among others. The Berkshires are also home to several outstanding museums, including the Clark Art Institute, Chesterwood (the home and studio of

sculptor Daniel Chester French – think Lincoln Memorial), The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, even the Norman Rockwell Museum.

**A word about visitors:**

This is an issue that is problematic for many participants, and therefore of special concern for us. Because the institute is action-packed, with individual and collaborative assignments outside of working sessions, the presence of outside friends and family can be particularly stressful, both for you and for the other participants. We strongly urge you to schedule any visits from friends and family on the weekly day off, or after the Institute is over. The Northampton web site will help in finding accommodations off campus. Overnight visitors to your room will be charged extra by the college.

**A word about the weather:**

The weather in New England can fluctuate wildly; cold mornings, hot and humid afternoons, and balmy, sometimes chilly, sometimes sweltering evenings. Temperatures can range from the 80's to the 40's within 24 hours. A heat wave could easily become very stressful for participants, partly because there is no air-conditioning in those old, elegant neo-classical dorms, and in some of the workspaces. Please bring clothing for wide temperature fluctuations. Past participants also strongly suggest bringing (or renting from the college -- \$5 for the month) personal room fans and clothing for temperature extremes. Seriously, the heat can be a real problem for some people, and because of the amount of physical activity in the working sessions – even without a heat wave – it can be stressful. Please be prepared.

**How to apply:**

Please refer to the four-page '**Application Information and Instructions**' from the NEH, and an '**Application Cover Sheet**.' In addition to the five points to address in the applicant essay, please briefly describe: **two incidents from your teaching**: one that was unusually successful, and the other, an unusual failure.

**Please note that application materials must be postmarked no later than March 2, 2009.**

Please send materials to:

National Institute on Teaching Shakespeare  
Shakespeare & Company  
Education Department  
70 Kemble Street  
Lenox, MA 01240

Twenty-six participants and six alternates will be selected and notified by April 1, 2009. The deadline for accepting or declining an invitation to participate is April 15, 2009.

**A summary in little boxes:**

On the next page, we've created a chart that summarizes the information for you. If you have any questions, we'd be happy to answer them. Contact us at (413) 637-1199 x123 to speak with Jo Ann Valle, or email [jvalle@shakespeare.org](mailto:jvalle@shakespeare.org)

Thank you again for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Shakespeare & the Rose Playhouse Institute

Dates	July 5 - August 1, 2009
Location	Smith College in Northampton, MA Offered by Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA
Housing	Individual rooms in Gardiner House, centrally located on Smith campus
Meals	3 meals/day M, Tu, Th, Fr. Breakfast-only on We, Sa. No meals on Sunday.
Library	Special 'visiting scholar' access and borrowing privileges
Computers	24-hour computer lab (10 computers) in Gardiner House. Internet access in each room for your own personal computer.
Stipend	\$3200 for the four-week institute. This stipend is issued by the NEH to pay for your <b>room</b> and <b>board</b> , your <b>travel</b> and <b>books</b> . The stipend will be paid in three installments: 50% upon arrival at the Institute, 25% on July 17 <sup>th</sup> and 25% at completion of the Institute.
Expenses	Housing, food, travel, books, incidentals

### Web resources for more information

Shakespeare & Company	<a href="http://www.shakespeare.org">www.shakespeare.org</a> Provides an overview of the Company's multi-faceted programming (information on the 2009 summer performance season will be posted in the new year)
Smith College	<a href="http://www.smith.edu">www.smith.edu</a>
Northampton	<a href="http://www.northamptonuncommon.com">www.northamptonuncommon.com</a> The official web site of the Northampton chamber of commerce <a href="http://www.northamptonma.gov">http://www.northamptonma.gov</a> A helpful resource for community events and town history <a href="http://www.noho.com">http://www.noho.com</a> Another helpful community resource
The Berkshires	<a href="http://www.berkshires.org">www.berkshires.org</a> The web site for the Berkshire Visitors' Bureau provides information and links to many of the other cultural organizations