THIEL COLLEGE
Shakespeare Festival 2015

January 29, 2015 • William A. Robinson Theater
Welcome to the 2nd Annual High School Shakespeare Festival at Thiel College!

On Thursday, January 29, 2015, students from across the region (including Southwestern New York, Eastern Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia) will convene to highlight the talents and skills of high school students through sharing William Shakespeare’s work in performance. Featuring monologues, small scenes, ensemble pieces and (new this year) a talent showcase, this day-long festival culminates in an awards ceremony and feedback from our panel of theater respondents.

Format / Parameters:

Schools may enter monologues, Duos/Trios or larger ensemble scenes. Schools may enter candidates in any or all of these categories, but maximum total amount of time allotted to any school (including transitions between pieces) is 25 minutes. There is no minimum total time requirement for schools.

Content / Editing / Use of Modern Language

This festival is a celebration of Shakespeare’s work. Modern English is allowed for introductions or transitions, but the “meat” of the entry should be Shakespeare’s words. Entries may draw from Shakespeare’s plays, sonnets or poems. Cuttings may combine any number of these textual elements into a single scene based on a theme if they are so moved.

Advisor/Parental Presence:

Ensemble entries should be accompanied by at least one adult (usually the director). Monologue or Duo/Trio ONLY entries can participate without an advisor or parent representing their home school.

Media Release Requirement:

Festival staff will make individual videos of the day’s performances. Each school will receive a mastered DVD of their group’s performance. Excerpts from top-notch performances will be posted online for future participants and for future festival promotion. All content is the property of Thiel College.
Participants are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We are limited only by the hours in a day, and as all entrants are held to strict time limits. We will accommodate as many participants as we can during the festival day.

**Registration Fees**

All participating schools are required to pay a flat registration fee of $100, regardless of number of participants.

Registration fee includes:

- Beverages and snacks during morning registration and afternoon awards ceremony
- A box lunch*
- A souvenir participant T-shirt
- Ribbons and Awards
- A mastered DVD of each school’s performance

* Special dietary needs can be accommodated. Advance notice requested and can be submitted directly to Dr. Rydberg or online at the time of registration.

**The Day’s Schedule: Participants**

All participants are expected to stay for the entire day of the festival to share in the celebration of their peers’ work. It is hoped that all participants will serve as respectful audience members for each production except the one immediately prior to their own performance. During the proceeding entry (reminder: this could be as short as a 5 minute monologue or as long as a 25 minute ensemble selection) the next participants may gather in the greenroom, distribute props from their road boxes and have access to the dressing rooms & facilities (all of course quietly as there will be a performance in progress). The Festival Stage Manager will notify your group in the greenroom when they are at five minutes, and will give you ‘places’ at two minutes. The gong will sound at “GO” and your time will start. Immediately following performance, take your bows and exit during applause clearing the stage entirely of actors, props and set pieces.

All groups receive written feedback from our panel of professional respondents via email in the days following the Festival. If your group would like to remain for a short response to each entrant by respondents you are welcome to – but must remain for the entire feedback session, which may last up to an additional hour following the awards ceremony & closing reception.

**Festival Day: Hourly Breakdown**

All activities at the William A. Robinson Theater

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:30</td>
<td>Participant Arrival &amp; Check In (Beverage Bar &amp; Snacks Provided)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-8:45</td>
<td>Welcome and Warm-Up led by Dr. Pete Rydberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-11:30</td>
<td>Morning Performance Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-12:15</td>
<td>LUNCH (box lunch provided)</td>
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<td>12:15-1:45</td>
<td>Afternoon Performance Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45-2:45</td>
<td>Thiel College Campus Virtual Tour while Festival Respondents Create Awards List</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45-3:15</td>
<td>Awards Presentation and Reception (Snacks and Desserts Provided)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15-3:30</td>
<td>Transition for schools leaving prior to verbal response phase</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Oral Response Session with Adjudicators optional attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30</td>
<td>Festival Concludes</td>
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A finalized calendar of events including specific performance times for each entry will be distributed on or before December 16, 2014.
Registration & Schedule

Size of Ensemble
Please limit your entire representation (performers, technicians, advisors/chaperones) to 20 people.

Talent Showcase
For 2015 we’re adding an element to our Shakespeare Festival format—a talent showcase! Between entries performed by the Festival schools we’ll give your students a chance to show their stuff in two areas key to many theater performances: singing and dancing.

We have four categories to choose from: Solo/Duet Song, Solo/Duet Dance, Group Song, and Group Dance. Specifics are as follows:

- All numbers must be from recognized theater pieces; no movies or “popular” tunes.
- All musical accompaniment must be able to be played on the Robinson Theater sound system. CD or mp3 will work, but mp3 is preferred.
- All accompaniment for songs must be music-only. No lip synching or karaoke accompaniment.
- Try to keep each selection in the 3-minute range.
- Only one performance of a title permitted per festival! As much as we love “Defying Gravity” and “Empty Chairs at Empty Tables,” once a day is plenty.
- No more than two showcase events per school.
- Showcase performers should also be part of your school’s total ensemble count but do not need to be performers in your school’s Shakespearean selections.

To enter a showcase performance, please complete the appropriate fields on our online registration form including the name of the song and the show it is from when registering your school. Schools will be notified with confirmation of showcase inclusion at the top of the school year.

Contact Dr. Pete Rydberg, Thiel’s theater director, at prydberg@thiel.edu for details.

Festival Awards
The Thiel College Shakespeare Festival is a non-competitive celebration of peer performance and production of Shakespeare’s work. That being said, giving out awards to recognize exceptional work is well deserved and fun. Our awards are non-hierarchical or gendered – but can certainly be a little saucy! Categories of excellence will be devised by Festival Respondents following the afternoon performance block.

Weather Considerations
If more than 50% of participating schools are unable to attend due to inclement weather school cancellations the Festival will also be canceled. In that exceptional circumstance, registration fees will be refunded.
Technical Guidelines

Philosophy of Limited Tech

Use of technical elements is entirely optional and should be minimal – work should be focused on vocal and physical embodiment, dynamic staging, pacing, ensemble effectiveness, etc.

Stage Layout

The playing space is a standard thrust configuration: A Rectangular space 35 feet across and 22 feet deep. There is one 8 x 8 upstage center entrance. Action must be confined to this playing space. Playing on the mezzanine level or in the audience is not allowed. Floor plan will be provided to all entrants.

Set Pieces

The Festival venue (William A. Robinson Theater) will provide the following stock items:

- (2) 3’ benches
- (2) 18” x 18” x 18” cubes
- (2) folding tables (images included in packet).

Black folding chairs as requested.

All items are painted black and can be carried by a single performer. Placement of any of these items occurs after the chime indicating the start of your allotted time has rung so incorporate set up into your staging. The stage must be cleared of all set pieces and props immediately following applause for their entry.

Lighting

There will be no blackouts or special lighting effects from the booth. The lights will remain up throughout the entire festival.

Sound

No amplified/recorded sound will be sent through the house sound system, but on-stage effects or live music is welcome.

Exception:

For those in the Talent Showcase accompaniment should be on a CD or an mp3 on a standard portable memory stick/jump drive. Mp3 format is preferred. All accompaniment for songs must be music-only. No lip synching or karaoke accompaniment.

Costumes and Makeup

Participants should arrive in costume and makeup. There is one small changing room for men, one for women, and one for gender neutral students which are shared by all participating schools, so no makeup, costumes, or personal items may be stowed in those spaces. For this reason we encourage costumes that are comfortable to be in all day and can be accessorized / augmented easily. Restrooms are available adjacent to dressing rooms for makeup removal.

Props

All props must fit in a roadbox or lidded plastic bin no larger than 3’ x 3’ x 3’ and IDEALLY lockable. These will be stored backstage and will not be accessible except immediately before and immediately after the performance. If it does not fit in your roadbox, don’t bring it. Do not bring valuables or personal items as things get broken or lost.

Forbidden props Include:

- Glitter/Confetti
- Liquids of any kind (including stage blood)
- Food of any kind
- Firearms or “real” weapons (stage firearms which have never and never could be functional are acceptable, as are non-edged blades), glass or other breakables, open flames or smoking, fog or mist effects of any kind. Basically, nothing that can make a mess of the stage or could potentially harm another person.
Parking
Free and ample parking is available adjacent to the William A. Robinson Theater for all vehicle types.

Accessibility
The Theater is wheelchair accessible. Contact Dr. Rydberg for specific accessibility needs.

Hometown Audiences
Family and friends are encouraged to come support representatives from their schools. Unlike participants, they may selectively appear and disappear during the course of the day. Schools will have assigned performance times by December 16, 2014. Seating capacity is determined by fire codes but we will endeavor to get everyone in who wishes to see a particular performance. Because we will be professionally recording student work and making it available to group advisors and online, and have no idea how much “elbow room” audience members will have, there will be no outside recordings allowed of the festival – and of course no flash photos during performances. Keep those smartphones turned OFF (note: “on vibrate” does not count as OFF.) Doors will be strictly maintained during performances. No late entries.

Contact Information
General Information:
Dr. Pete Rydberg, Director of Theater at Thiel College
Phone: (724) 589-2029
E-mail: prydberg@thiel.edu

Registration Support:
The Office of Admission at Thiel College
Phone: (724) 589-2345
Email: admissions@thiel.edu

Cutting Selection & Editing Guidance
Thiel alumnus Paul Miller ran Greenville High School’s Shakespeare festival for over two decades, and he knows the Bard’s work inside and out. Mr. Miller has volunteered to be a resource for any coach, advisor or individual in selecting or editing their selections. He is available via email only at pjmill3r3@verizon.net.

Thiel College Theater & Drama Scholarship Information and Eligibility
The Department of Performing Arts offers scholarships up to $1000 for students interested in Theater & Drama. Each scholarship is renewable for four years for students who maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA and do one of the following for annual renewal:

• Participate in a Thiel Players production each semester (on or offstage)
• Complete seven credit hours within the Theater Department annually
• Declare themselves a theater minor

Successful candidates will respond to a questionnaire from the Director of Theater, and select finalists will be invited to Thiel Campus to audition (performers) or to present their portfolio (technicians/designers). Contact Dr. Pete Rydberg for more information at prydberg@thiel.edu.

Students traveling from more than 300 miles away are eligible for a $200 travel voucher to help defray travel costs. Student must be accepted for Fall 2015 admission and provide travel receipts.

International finalists or finalists for whom campus visits are logistically problematic may conduct their secondary interview and audition or presentation with the Director of Theater via Skype.
**Entry Form**

Thiel College High School Shakespeare Festival  
Registration Deadline: December 2, 2014

High School Name: ____________________________________________________________
Primary Contact Name: __________________________________________________________
Primary Contact Phone: __________________________________________________________
Primary Contact Email: __________________________________________________________
High School Address 1: __________________________________________________________
High School Address 2: __________________________________________________________
State: ____________________ Zip: ____________________

Talent Showcase Entry? (Check Yes or No)
If Yes:
Song Title:
Source Production Title:

Please check one:

☐ I have sent a check for $100 to the address below
☐ I would like to use a credit card / Please have a representative call me for payment information. (Phone #: _____________________________)

**Mailing Address for Registration Payment**
(Please make checks payable to THIEL COLLEGE):

High School Shakespeare Festival  
Thiel College  
75 College Avenue  
Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125

Follow Up Information required of Registrants DUE JANUARY 12, 2015:

Title of Entry (as it will appear in program)
Total Duration of Entry (including any transitions) MAXIMUM 25 minutes:
Total Number in group (students, teachers and chaperones) MAXIMUM of 20:
Cast and Crew List (as it will appear in the program)

Please email this information to Dr. Pete Rydberg at prydberg@thiel.edu