

The San Diego Student Shakespeare Festival Information Packet



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<https://writeoutloudeducation.weebly.com/shakes-fest.html>

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

You are invited to participate in the 15th annual San Diego Student Shakespeare Festival produced by the San Diego Shakespeare Society and Write Out Loud. Your students will make Shakespeare come alive through Monologues, Two-Person Scenes and Puppetry Scenes. The Virtual Festival will be streamed on Saturday, April 24, 2021 and will remain available for viewing after that date.

ALL are WELCOME!

Who can participate?

Any student between the ages of 5 – 19 and K – 12th grade, including schools in San Diego City and County (public, private, parochial, independent, home-school) other K-12 school-aged groups (learning pods, community youth organizations), and individual students within the age and grade range may participate.

FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performances this year will be accepted via video ONLY.

The videos will be edited together to create our Festival.

The Festival will be live-streamed at 11 o'clock on Saturday, April 24th 2021.

The link will be sent out to all participants for viewing and sharing.

Festival Performance Categories

- Monologue
- Sonnet
- Two-Person Scene
- Puppet Scene

Monologue or Sonnet—

Requirements: Solo performance. Performer may choose either 1 sonnet or 1 monologue. Monologue must come from one of Shakespeare's plays. Sonnet performance must be a complete, un-cut sonnet.

Suggested time allowed 2-3 minutes performance. No more than 5 minutes total allotted from the first word to the last word spoken.

Two-Person Scene –

Requirements: 2 actors present a scene or cutting from one of Shakespeare's plays.

Suggested time allowed 3 - 5 minutes performance. No more than 7 minutes total allotted from the first line to the last line spoken.

Puppet Scene –

Requirements: One or more actors present a scene or cutting from one of Shakespeare's plays using puppets. Puppet designs are up the creator! Perform along-side your puppet in a two-person scene, or voice multiple puppets in a larger group scene. See our puppet workshop video on the ShakesFest webpage for ideas and inspiration!

Suggested time allowed 3 - 5 minutes performance. No more than 7 minutes total allotted from the first line to the last line spoken.

NOTE: Please make safe choices if submitting a two-person scene. Scenes with both participants in the same space are accepted, however neither San Diego Shakespeare Society nor Write Out Loud are responsible for the health and safety of performers submitting to the Festival. Please use common sense and be safe. Scenes performed via ZOOM or other digital platform with both participants in separate screens WILL be accepted, however MUST be submitted as one video. We cannot edit single videos into two-person scenes.

IMPORTANT

No language, behavior, attire, or content that would be considered inappropriate in a school setting is allowed. Student participants are K-12, ages 5 - 18, and from all walks of life, so we must refrain from vulgarity and coarseness in our choices.

Performance Logistics

Material should be memorized, and performed from memory.

Hand props and Costumes at the discretion of the participants. They are NOT Required.

Filming & Video Submission Instructions

You may film on any device you have - smart phone, camera, webcam on a computer, etc.

Please film in horizontal/landscape.

Be sure you are facing towards the camera so we can see your face and hear your voice.

For those doing monologues or sonnets, please frame the shot no lower than mid-waist, and with a small space above your head, and center yourself in the frame. You may be sitting or standing for your monologue or sonnet video.

For those doing two-person scenes: If you are recording via Zoom or Virtual Platform and you are the only person in your frame, please follow the instructions above. If you are both in the same place, please be sure you are both fully within the camera frame, from the knees up or higher.

For those filming puppet scenes: frame the scene as best fits your puppets. Please make sure we can clearly see and hear everything in your scene.

NOTE: If filming a two-person scene using Zoom or other Virtual Platform please record the scene as ONE VIDEO. We cannot edit single videos into two-person scenes.

If possible, please set your phone/ camera/ computer/ filming device on a steady surface, rather than have someone hold it, as this can result in shaky videos. Stacks of books, a tripod, a counter, etc.

If possible, please find a space that is neutral - a blank wall, or in front of closed curtains (but see lighting note below), or outdoors in front of a background free from distraction.

Make sure your face is lit. It is best to have a light source coming from **in front** of you. Ideally, this would be a window or a lamp that lights you from the front. Using only over-head light can cause dark shadows over your eyes, so try and use a combination of over-head and front lighting. Most importantly, there should be no bright light source behind you, as this will turn you into a silhouette. (So if you film in front of closed curtains, check the light balance before you film.)

Please try and find a space that is quiet and free from noise distractions. Think about closing all doors and windows to the outside, or filming away from people.

For Monologues & Sonnets look either straight into the camera, or just above the camera. It is sometimes helpful to have a person stand just behind the camera, to give you someone to focus on as a "scene partner," or even to draw a face on a piece of paper and tape it above the camera, to give you a consistent place to look.

For Two Person Scenes if filmed via ZOOM or other Virtual Platform, look at your scene partner as you would if you were talking with them. If filmed live together, look at each other, but be sure we can see both your faces!

Please start recording, then give a few seconds before you begin speaking at the beginning, and then continue recording for a few beats after you are done speaking at the end, for editing purposes.

PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill out the Submission Form for inclusions in the Festival. Please upload your video to the form. Please DO NOT send YouTube links. Please send video files only.

Submission Form: <https://forms.gle/fc64agUo8haEFmS48>

Please download, sign, and return the Media Release, available here AND on the Submission Form: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BKHKGFMqwfAh0JrI97LKWDkS8n6b6aPL/view?usp=sharing>

**ALL VIDEOS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY APRIL 9th AT 12:00 MIDNIGHT.
ALL SIGNED MEDIA RELEASES MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH.**

NOTE:

**ALL performances will be accepted as Exhibition ONLY.
There will be no competition aspect this year, or awards given.
This year's Festival will be presented in the spirit of
joy, celebration, perseverance, creativity, and ingenuity
that we are all calling upon to lift ourselves and one another
out of these challenging times.**

Time Line

- April 9 – Final day to submit videos.
- April 16 – Final day to submit Media Release Forms
- April 24th at 11:00 AM – Festival Available!

FREE WORKSHOPS!

As part of ShakesFest 2021 we are happy to offer four FREE Virtual Workshop Videos and a chance to enter a lottery for a FREE fifteen minute one-on-one session with a professional Actor and Teaching Artist!

Acting Shakespeare 101: (40 Minutes) This workshop will offer a crash-course in the basics of performing a Shakespearean character.

Poetics and Text Analysis: (30 minutes) A more in-depth workshop to help you crack the Shakespearean Code.

Performance and Filming Techniques: (15 minutes) Simple tips to make your video and your performance look polished and professional.

Puppetry: (15 minutes) Learn to create and perform simple puppets with every-day at-home materials!

One-on-One Lottery

In an effort to provide “in person” engagement with participants, all participants may enter a lottery on the ShakesFest web page for a chance to win a FREE 15 minute one-on-one session with a professional Actor and Teaching Artist over Zoom.

For links to FREE video workshops and One-on-One Lottery entry visit
<https://writeoutloudeducation.weebly.com/shakes-fest.html>

Question? Contact Festival Coordinator Rachael VanWormer at
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