

*Suit the action
to the word, the word
to the action...*

*-Hamlet's
advice to the players*



ADVICE
TO THE
PLAYERS



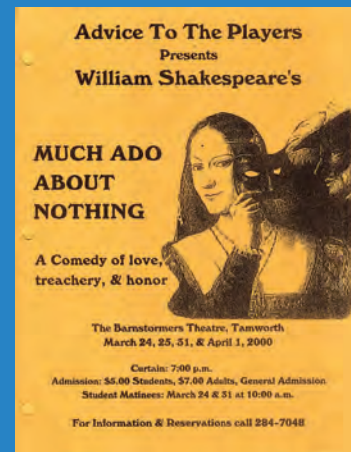
ADVICE TO THE PLAYERS

Your Locally Sourced Shakespeare Company



2014 ~ 2016

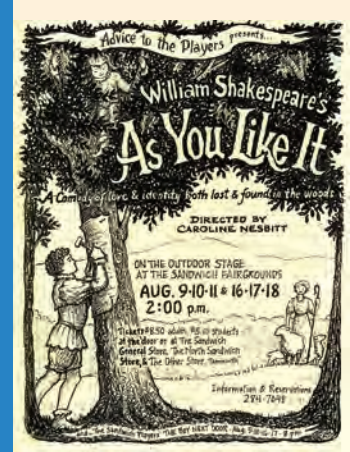
All the World's a Stage...
Sustainable Growth Campaign



2000



2001



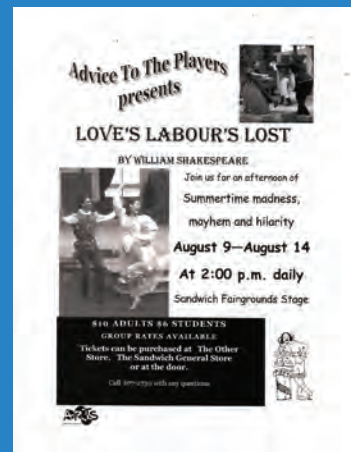
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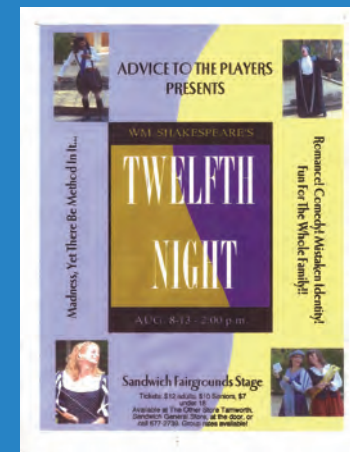
2003



2005



2005



2006



2006



ADVICE TO THE PLAYERS

Mission Statement

OUR MISSION IS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY in exploration of our shared humanity through the rich language and passionate action of Shakespeare's plays.

We do this BY PRODUCING CLASSICAL THEATER and mentoring young people IN A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS that brings together theater professionals, students and community members.

We believe in the power of live theater TO CONNECT THE COMMUNITY, TRANSFORM INDIVIDUALS AND INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION with the beauty of the English language.

A Midsummer Night's Dream ~ 2011

1999

March - *Othello*

2000

March - *Much Ado About Nothing*

December - *A Christmas Carol*

2001

March - *Twelfth Night*

December - *A Christmas Carol*

2002

March - *Romeo and Juliet*

August - *As You Like It*

December - *A Christmas Carol*

2003

March - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

August - *The Comedy of Errors*

December - *A Christmas Carol*

2004

March - *Hamlet*

August - *Much Ado About Nothing*

December - *A Christmas Carol*

2005

March - *The Tempest*

August - *Love's Labour's Lost*

December - *The Pirates of Penzance*

In the Beginning

Years ago I dreamed about creating
a Shakespeare company here in
northern New Hampshire.



Love's Labour's Lost - 2005

At that time I, like many actors, had the idea that such a company would be composed of professional actors and technicians who would make theater for the community. Note that word: *for*.

My attitude changed drastically when I started teaching Shakespeare at The Community School in 1998. The oddest thing happened. Even kids who couldn't read could get the words of Shakespeare into their bodies and could act out scenes with passion, fervor, and commitment. I discovered that Shakespeare and young people were the perfect match.

And I was no longer talking about a Shakespeare theater *for* the community. I wanted a company that would involve these amazing teens and anyone else in the community who wanted to play with us. I realized that combining professional actors with energetic young people and others could produce wonderful theater with benefits far beyond the productions themselves.

Many of our original young teens have returned as skilled actors, technicians, and mentors in their own right, forming an impressive and wonderful creative continuum. And Advice To The Players truly belongs to everybody.

Caroline Nesbitt, founder

Spirit, Intention and Goodwill

Advice To The Players makes Shakespeare's plays so accessible to all, audience and performers alike. Children, teens, adults, new actors and professional actors. No entitlements, no affectations, no preconceived notions of "Shakespearean acting". You just have to know what you're saying. I have never worked in a theater where there was such equality of spirit, intention and goodwill. -Jean Mar Brown, Equity actress



Twelfth Night - 2006



Richard III - 2014



The Taming of the Shrew - 2008

Thou speak'st aright; I am that merry wanderer of the night.
- Puck, in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



Hamlet's advice to the players: *Suit the action to the word, the word to the action.* Since 1999 we have heeded this advice. We believe Shakespeare is for everyone—that's why our company is made up of students, professional actors and community members, all working together.

2006

March - *Romeo and Juliet*

August - *Twelfth Night*

December - *H.M.S. Pinafore*

2007

March - *Macbeth*

August - *As You Like It*

December - *A Christmas Carol*

2008

March - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

August - *The Taming of the Shrew*

December - *A Christmas Carol*

(Staged Reading) Tamworth Inn

2009

February - *Shakespeare in Love*

at the Tamworth Inn

March - *Henry V*

August - *The Winter's Tale*

October - *The Life & Death of that Dastardly Villain Richard III*

December - *A Christmas Carol*

(Staged Reading) Tamworth Inn

Lord, what fools these mortals be!
—A Midsummer Night's Dream



All photos on this page are from our 2011 summer production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Henry V - 2009



The big battle scene in *Henry V* really summed up what *Advice To The Players* means to me. Running out onstage with a \$300 steel broadsword in your hand to perform a professionally choreographed fight with someone you might not have met before last week—but whom you trust completely—is one of the most amazing (not to mention FUN) things I've ever done. The people around you aren't strangers or just other actors, or even ordinary high school students. They're family. Those three weeks in March are the best days of my year.

~ student actor, age 15

We suit actions to words and words to actions by bringing Shakespeare down to earth in full theatrical productions, children's camps and productions, comic abridgements, popular-culture mashups (Shakespearean Idol), Shakespeare-inspired cabaret, workshops, and more.



Shakespeare gives us every kind of dramatic action—all expressed in language so powerful that modern English still overflows with its influence.

2010

March ~ *Hamlet*

August ~ *The Comedy of Errors*

October ~ *The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus & Thisby*

2011

March ~ *Othello*

August ~ *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

2012

March ~ *The Merchant of Venice*

August ~ *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*

October ~ Shakespearean Idol

2013

March ~ *Julius Caesar*

July ~ *Midsummer Mirth:*

A Shakespeare Comedy Cabaret

August ~ *Much Ado About Nothing*

October ~ Shakespearean Idol

2014

March ~ *Richard III*

July ~ *Yorick Kidding Me!*

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Hamlet

by Warren Bain & Matt Bernard

August ~ *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

October ~ Shakespearean Idol



Shakespeare Drama Camps

Our two-week camps in July are an exciting journey into Shakespeare's language, characters and plays that immerses young people of all ages in the art and craft of acting, and end with a rousing performance of Shakespeare's work adapted by our teaching artists and created by students for family and friends.



I Love Shakespeare Camp!

Shakespeare Camp is a place where I get to see all my old friends, make many new friends (I started camp knowing around two people and now every year I make more friends), I get to play really fun games that never seem to work anywhere else, get to be taught how to improve my acting but still have fun. Everything about camp is wonderful!

Every year I look forward to finding out what play we're going to do, getting our parts, learning how to seem like our character, getting our costumes, performing (even though I get nervous). Every year I am amazed how even when we're not onstage there is so much we can do to feel included. In other words I love Shakespeare Camp! -participant, age 11



What other playwright offers so much delight to young players? Lovers and betrayers, loyal friends and secret enemies, murderers and villains, heroes and heroines, clowns and philosophers, Kings and Queens, ghosts and witches . . . Shakespeare has it all.



... it will be like meeting an old friend.

I write as a grandmother of eight grandchildren who have loved their two-week experiences in Shakespeare Drama Camps offered by **Advice To The Players**. What they manage to produce in such a short time is remarkable. It is a wonderful introduction to English literature.

The lines and speeches the children memorize will be with them forever, and I am sure that when they meet Shakespeare later in their education, it will be like meeting an old friend. My husband and I support this effort wholeheartedly. -Molly Nye



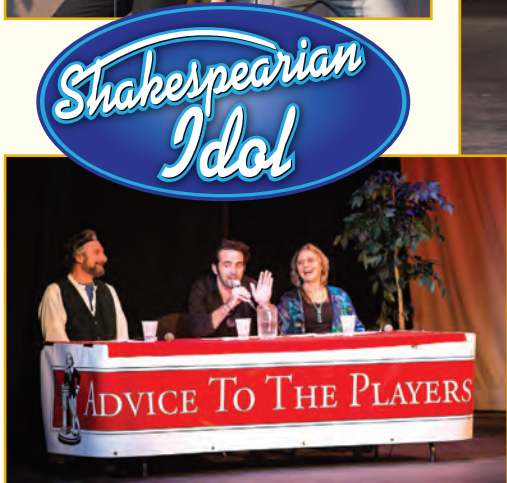
The game is challenging and the stakes are high. When you work with a group of people to achieve something magical, and when what you do counts, you feel your own power and worth, and you feel the joy of collaboration. You become more fully yourself.



The Tempest backstage ~ 2005



Julius Caesar ~ 2013



Out & About with Shakespeare

There is more than one way to bring Shakespeare alive for contemporary audiences. We have entertained the crowd with free Shakespeare-based farce during the Sandwich Fair (above, *The Bunch-backed Toad*, from *Richard III*), we host *The Bard's Birthday*, an Elizabethan feast and entertainment at the Corner House Inn, and our summer offerings include a Shakespeare-inspired modern comedy. An Elizabethan Garden for Sandwich is being planned.

In 2012 we launched an annual event called *Shakespearian Idol*. Contestants pair a speech from Shakespeare with a song and the judges and audience vote for a winner. The results are always creative and often hilarious.



Julius Caesar high school talkback ~ 2013



Henry V rehearsal ~ 2009

Doing it Right!

Advice To The Players is doing it right—Shakespeare wrote these plays to be shared theatrical events within a community. Having students and community members share the stage with professional actors fosters a collaboration that both grounds and enriches these productions within the community that is palpable to all who attend.

I am proud to be associated with this company, and delighted to contribute stage combat and clown workshops to support their productions. This company is a true gem in the wide world of Shakespeare theatres.

—Kevin G. Coleman, Director of Education, Shakespeare & Company

You don't measure the arts just by what comes out at the end; the arts enrich our lives, and allow us to see the world differently, and there is a special nourishment that comes from being part of the creative process. ~ Becca Boyden, ATTP's Executive Director



From talkbacks and workshops in high schools to backstage fellowship to learning how to fight onstage with a sword, ATTP offers its students and other participants the chance to be part of an unusual organization that combines art, community-building and experiential education.



We keep returning to Advice To The Players because they are so school-friendly. They cater to our needs. The shows are amazingly affordable, they produce the plays we want to teach, and they run them in the morning to get us out in time for lunch.

I love the Q&A talkback at the end of the plays. I make sure we don't have to rush out the door because this is what clinches the students' respect and understanding. They see the actors both as real people and as professionals who have mastered a difficult task that the students struggle with. I also see a sense of yearning in them—a desire to join this close, elite, fun family.

Advice To The Players has a mandate to help young people learn by doing. On stage, in the bleachers, or on a school field trip, this is a fantastic, stimulating way to engage in Shakespeare!

—Gordon Lang, English teacher
Wolfeboro, NH

All the World's a Stage...

ADVICE TO THE PLAYERS' Sustainable Growth Campaign

Like every successful nonprofit organization and/or small theater company, begun in passionate conviction on a wing and a prayer, there comes a time when we realize that we *did* it; we are here, upholding and sustaining what we believe in, doing it well and wanting to go on doing it even better for a long time to come.

After 16 sweet years of making it work, often on that wing and prayer, and with help from you, our generous, loyal supporters, it's time for us to plan for a sustainable future.

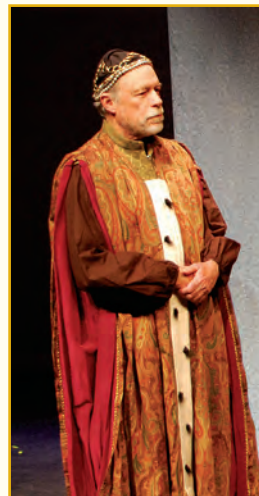
The intention of this three-year campaign is to sustain and grow ATTP's ability to do what it does best: to reach out to youth and people of all ages, by combining the wisdom, humor, intelligence and vitality of Shakespeare's plays with a strong sense of community, collaboration and fun.



A Midsummer Night's Dream ~ 2011



As You Like It ~ 2007



Henry V ~ 2009

Everyone has a Story to Tell

Not everyone can be a skilled actor, but everyone has a story to tell and a voice to find and use in any way they can; amongst the company, that need is never ignored and is always nurtured, even in the least confident actor in the smallest role. —Angela Smith, Equity actress

Campaign Goals

Our specific financial goals for the Sustainable Growth Campaign are:

1. Endowment
goal: \$100,000 in three years
2. The Colleen McDermott Education Fund (seed funding)
goal: \$25,000 in three years
3. New program initiatives (seed funding)
goal: \$25,000 in three years

The total amount being sought through the campaign will be \$150,000 over three years. This is in addition to our annual appeal for operating costs, which, thanks to your generosity, allows us to stay in business—the business of professional theater as community artmaking.

*New Hampshire
Theatre Awards*

2004 – Heather Hamilton,
Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*

2005 – *Love's Labour's Lost*,
General Excellence

2006 – Jean Mar Brown,
the Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet*

2007 – Candace Clift,
Rosalind in *As You Like It*
Miranda Posner,
Celia in *As You Like It*

2008 – Caroline Nesbitt,
Excellence in Children's Theatre

2009 – *Henry V & The Winter's Tale*,
General Excellence

2013 – Angela Smith, Gaius Cassius
in *Julius Caesar*

In 2011 our friend and supporter, the late Bradley Ball, left us a generous bequest in his will. We are using it to seed this campaign and to begin an endowment which will help us weather the natural ups and downs of life in a nonprofit arts organization.



A strategic plan created in 2012 guides us towards our goals. The campaign begins in 2014, and continues through 2016, the year the world will commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. We will celebrate with the first ever Sandwich Shakespeare Festival!

Grantors and Sponsors

NH Charitable Foundation
NH State Council on the Arts
Yeoman's Fund for the Arts
Tamworth Foundation
Alfred Quimby Fund
Bank of New Hampshire
Spider Web Gardens
The Sandwich Fair



The Merchant of Venice ~ 2012

Who Supports us

- People who have seen and/or experienced our work directly and realize what a gift and resource ATTP is to its community—culturally, educationally, and socially.
- People who understand the value of an experiential arts education—who know that this kind of education accrues interest over a lifetime.
- People who recognize that Advice To The Players is a unique and effective model of building community and mentoring youth through collaborative projects imbued with the richness and responsibility of professional theater.

How you can help ...

We need you! We need your support as donors, sponsors, volunteers, and as Advice To The Players' champions in word and deed. Donations are welcome at any time. More information about the campaign and all the ways you can give and help, including monthly sustaining donations, legacy bequests, goal-specific donations, time-expanded donations (e.g.\$1000 over three years), is available on our website: www.advicetotheplayers.org

You can also call our Executive Director, Becca Boyden, at 603-986-6253.

Advice To The Players • PO Box 14, North Sandwich, NH • 03259



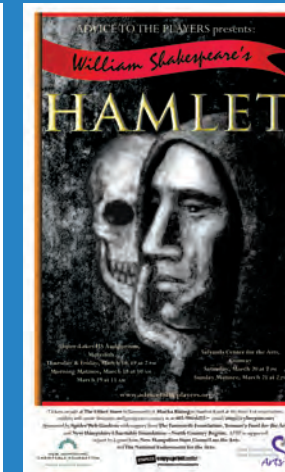
2007



2008



2009



2010



2011



2011



2012



2013



2013



2014



Many thanks to the photographers whose pictures illuminate these pages. The lion's share of photos within (and on the front) are by Duane Dale, whose website, DFDphotography.zenfolio.com/showcases his work. Thanks also to Monika O'Clair (Facebook.com/MonikaOPhotography), Carolyn Boldt and any others whose photos may be included.