



Bard Youth Fest – 2020/2021 ***Elementary & Middle Schools***

(For information on Secondary-level troupes, please click [here](#)).

Join Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival in a new program that celebrates young people making Shakespeare their own! Alongside troupes from other schools, you'll embark on a creative journey that culminates with a non-competitive Finale where each troupe will share their unique Shakespeare pieces.

A special note for 2020/2021: As we continue to navigate the ways schools must respond to the coronavirus pandemic, Bard Youth Fest will adapt as needed to provide online experiences when in-person collaboration isn't possible. Bard Youth Fest is all about exploration, discovery, adaptation, and invention, so it is well-suited to this uncertain time.

Who can participate?

Bard Youth Fest is for Elementary, Middle, and Secondary schools and Home Learner groups from across BC. Up to five troupes from area schools will participate in the Elementary/Middle festival. A troupe is a group of students, such as a class or home learning group, of anywhere from 3 to 30 students. We welcome students of all grades and abilities; no experience necessary!

Each troupe will need a **Troupe Champion**, an adult such as a teacher or staff member based at the school who will be responsible for the troupe's supervision during all Bard Youth Fest activities, as well as communication with students' families.

Each troupe will be assigned a **Bard Coach**, a professional theatre artist who will provide advice, support, and coaching to their troupe. All Bard Coaches are experienced Teaching Artists with Bard Education.

What will we do?

For 2020/2021, each Elementary/Middle troupe will be assigned a selection of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to prepare for performance in their own way. Bard Education will provide a cut script, along with recommendations for including all students in the troupe in meaningful ways. At the Finale in June, the troupes will perform their pieces in order, presenting the play in its entirety.

Working towards your Bard Youth Fest performance will be a student-led journey, inspired and driven by your students' skills, interests, and ideas.

When will it happen?

Rehearsals will occur during class time. Each troupe will work to a slightly different schedule that best suits their needs.

Below is a timeline for the 2020/2021 Bard Youth Fest:

Until October 15, 2020, 5 pm: Submit your application [online](#).

November/December 2020 (Date TBA): Professional Development Day kickoff for Troupe Champions and Bard Coaches.

January-June 2021: Collaborate and rehearse with your Bard Coach! Each troupe will have up to 20 hours of coaching time. Troupe Champions will create their rehearsal schedule in collaboration with their Bard Coach and Bard Education staff.

June 14-19, 2021: Hold a Dress Rehearsal to put the finishing touches on your performance. Date, time, and location TBD.

Monday, June 21, 2021: All troupes gather for the Finale! Share your presentation with other troupes and celebrate each other's work in this non-competitive event!

What does it cost?

~~\$3,000 per troupe~~ **FREE**, thanks to the generosity of the Pamela and David Richardson Family Foundation! Troupes will need to find funding to cover any transportation to the Dress Rehearsal and Finale, as well as TOC coverage for the Professional Development Day.

Apply [online](#) until October 15 at 5 pm!

*Bard Youth Fest is made possible thanks to the ingenuity and generosity of the
Pamela and David Richardson Family Foundation*