



Bard Youth Fest – 2020/2021 Secondary Schools

(For information on Elementary & Middle-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, your students will 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 Secondary festival. A troupe is an extracurricular group of anywhere from 3 to 25 students. We welcome participants 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 act as liaison between troupe members and families, school administration, Bard Coaches, and Bard Education staff. Troupe Champions will attend the Professional Development Day in Fall 2020 and the Dress Rehearsal and Finale in June 2021, but are not required to attend after-school rehearsals (although they are certainly welcome to!).

Each troupe will be assigned two **Bard Coaches**, professional theatre artists 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, Bard Youth Fest will begin with a series of complimentary [Bard in the Classroom](#) workshops. These sessions will introduce students to the Bard Coaches and to Bard Education's approach to exploring Shakespeare actively and imaginatively. Interested students will then be able to sign up to join the extracurricular troupe.

Together, each troupe will work under the guidance of their Bard Coaches to create their own Shakespeare piece inspired by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This will be a student-led journey that is driven by troupe members' skills, interests, and ideas. In June, all troupes will share their presentations and celebrate each other's creativity at the Finale hosted by Bard.

When will it happen?

Rehearsals will be extracurricular. Each troupe will work to a slightly different schedule that best suits their troupe members' 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 School Champions and Bard Coaches.

January 2021-Spring Break 2021: Host our Bard Coaches for a series of complimentary [Bard in the Classroom](#) workshops in your school. Then, promote the troupe and facilitate the student sign-up process.

Spring Break-June 2021: Rehearse with your Bard Coaches! Each troupe will have up to 20 hours of coaching time. Troupe Champions will liaise between the troupe, school administration, their Bard Coaches, and Bard Education staff to create the rehearsal schedule.

June 14-19, 2021: Attend 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!