



Bard Youth Fest 2022 Community Groups

*(For information on troupes based in Elementary & Middle Schools, please click [here](#).
For information on troupes based in Secondary Schools, 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 local schools and communities, participants 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 2021/2022:

As we continue to navigate the ways schools and communities 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 school-aged youth (K-grade 12) from across BC. A troupe is a group of anywhere from 3 to 25 youth. Troupes may be based at schools or can be formed in the community. We welcome participants of all ages and abilities. No experience necessary!

Troupes with participants in grades K-7 will participate in the Elementary & Middle School track, while troupes with participants in grades 8-12 will participate in the Secondary School track. Troupes with participants whose ages span this gap will participate in the track that best serves their troupe.

Each troupe will need a **Troupe Champion**, who will act as liaison between troupe members and families, Bard Coaches, and Bard Education staff. For elementary-aged troupes, this could be someone like a parent, guardian, or grandparent. For secondary-aged troupes, one of the troupe participants can serve as Troupe Champion.

For elementary-aged troupes, we ask that the Troupe Champion attend every rehearsal, or that they arrange for another parent to be present. The Troupe Champion will also need to attend the Dress Rehearsal and Finale in June and help solve student transportation to these events hosted by Bard.

What will we do?

Each troupe will be assigned one or 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.

Each troupe will work under the guidance of their Bard Coaches to create their own brief Shakespeare piece. 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 held outside school hours. Each troupe will work to a slightly different schedule that best suits their troupe members' needs.

Below is a timeline for the 2021/2022 Bard Youth Fest:

Until January 15th at 5 pm: [Apply online](#).

February 18, 2022: Professional Development Day kickoff for Troupe Champions and Bard Coaches (optional for Troupe Champions of community-based troupes, required for those who are teachers running Bard Youth Fest at their schools).

Spring Break – End of school year: Rehearse with your Bard Coaches! Each troupe will have up to 20 hours of coaching time. Troupe Champions will liaise between the troupe members and their families, their Bard Coaches, and Bard Education staff to create the rehearsal schedule.

End of the school year: Attend a Dress Rehearsal to put the finishing touches on your performance. Date, time, and location TBD.

End of the school year: All troupes gather for the Finale! Share your presentation and celebrate each other's work in this non-competitive event. Date, time, and location TBD.

Where will it happen?

Community Troupes will be responsible for finding a place to rehearse, such as a classroom or community space. Bard Education may be able to host rehearsals at the BMO Theatre Centre (162 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver), subject to availability.

What does it cost?

~~\$3,000 per troupe~~ **FREE**, thanks to the generosity of the Pamela and David Richardson Family Foundation!

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