



Bard Youth Fest 2023

For ages 13 & up

Bard Youth Fest is back for 2023! Join us in supporting and celebrating the creativity and ingenuity of young people as they make Shakespeare their own!

What's Bard Youth Fest in 2023?

- A professional teaching artist from Bard will introduce a troupe of teens to a variety of Shakespeare's language, characters, and stories
- With the help of this Bard Coach, each participating troupe will **prepare a brief Shakespeare performance piece** of no more than 20 minutes.
- **Troupes will share their work with one another** in the Bard Youth Fest finale at the end of April.
- Participants will be **given a pair of complimentary tickets** to attend Bard's 2023 Shakespeare Festival in June.

What will Bard provide?

- A **Bard Coach**: a [professional teaching artist](#) to offer advice, support, and coaching to their troupe through regular rehearsal sessions between February and April
- **Support for creating a script** for the piece
- **A venue for the Bard Youth Fest finale**: at the BMO Theatre Centre in Vancouver's Olympic Village
- **Complimentary tickets**: to see a performance at the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival in June

Supporting the Troupe:

Your troupe will need a **Troupe Champion**, an adult such as a teacher or other staff member, who will be responsible for:

- Communications between troupe members and families, school administration, Bard Coaches, and Bard Education staff
- Creating the rehearsal schedule in collaboration with the Bard Coach and the Bard Education staff
- Coordinating transportation for participants to the stage rehearsal, finale, and Festival performance
- Troupe supervision and support during all Bard Youth Fest activities

2022/2023 Timeline:

Now Until December 1 at 5 PM: Sign up!

Mid to Late January 2023: Informal social to kick-off the program (for Troupe Champions, Bard Coaches, and the Bard Education Administrative Team).

February – Mid-April: Rehearse with your Bard Coaches over several weeks! Troupe Champions will liaise with their troupe members and families, Bard Coaches, and Bard Education staff to create a rehearsal schedule that suits your troupe's needs.

Saturday, April 22: Attend a stage/dress rehearsal at the [BMO Theatre Centre](#). Exact times TBD.

Saturday, April 29: All troupes gather for the finale! Troupes share their pieces and celebrate each other's work in this showcase. [BMO Theatre Centre](#) on the Newmont Stage. Exact times TBD.

Where will it happen?

- **Rehearsals:** School-based troupes will rehearse at their schools. Troupes not affiliated with a school 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.
- **Stage rehearsal & Finale:** on the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre in Vancouver's Olympic Village.
- **Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival:** Festival site at Señákw/Vanier Park in Vancouver.

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 stage rehearsal, finale, and Festival production.

About the troupe's Shakespeare piece

Bard Youth Fest is about the synergy of young people's creativity and Shakespeare's language. We celebrate Shakespeare's language as a catalyst for new ideas, new approaches and new interpretations, centering the troupe's agency as they express themselves through Shakespeare.

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