



Junior Bard Youth Fest 2023

For students in grades K - 8

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

What's Junior Bard Youth Fest in 2023?

- A professional teaching artist from Bard will introduce your students to Shakespeare's comedy *As You Like It*, discovering how the language, characters, and story resonate for them.
- With the help of this Bard Coach, each participating troupe will **prepare a brief section of the play**, with opportunities for the entire class to take part
- **Troupes will share their work with one another** in the Bard Youth Fest finale at the end of April.
- Participants will be **given complimentary tickets** to attend Bard's 2023 Festival production of *As You Like It* in June.

What will Bard provide?

- A **Bard Coach**: a [professional teaching artist](#) to offer advice, support, and coaching to their troupe through regular classroom visits between February and April
- **A script**: for your troupe's section of the play, *As You Like It*
- **A venue for the Junior Bard Youth Fest finale**: at the BMO Theatre Centre in Vancouver's Olympic Village
- **Complimentary tickets**: to see the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival's production of *As You Like It* 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 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.

Friday, April 21: Attend a stage/dress rehearsal at the [BMO Theatre Centre](#). Exact times TBD.

Friday, April 28: All troupes gather for the finale! Share your piece and celebrate each other's work in this showcase. [BMO Theatre Centre](#) on the Newmont Stage. Exact times TBD.

June 14: Attend a matinee performance of *As You Like It* at our Festival!

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's Festival production of *As You Like It*:** the BMO Mainstage at our 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 *As You Like It*

Our 2023 Junior Bard Youth Fest will focus on Bard's 2023 mainstage comedy *As You Like It*. This delightful pastoral comedy is full of love, friendship, music, and adventure, and provides lots of opportunities for young people to express themselves and have fun.

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