



Bard Youth Fest

Spring 2025

What is Bard Youth Fest?

- An opportunity for young people to explore Shakespeare's language, characters and stories and create an original interpretation as a collaborative ensemble, facilitated by a professional theatre artist from Bard's teaching artist team
- Troupes will rehearse for between 12 to 20 hours, during which time they will **prepare a short interpretation of excerpts from a Shakespeare play**
- **The Troupe will share their work** in the Bard Youth Fest finale on **May 9, 2025**.

What does Bard Education provide us?

- A **Bard Coach**: a [professional teaching artist](#) to facilitate rehearsals and guide your Troupe through regular sessions between February and May, 2025
- **Resources**: such as text, abridged scripts, games, and acting exercises
- **A venue for the rehearsals and Finale showcase** at the BMO Theatre Centre in Vancouver's Olympic Village

If your Troupe is from a school or community program:

Troupes will need a **Troupe Liaison**, an adult such as a teacher or other staff member, who will:

- **Communicate with troupe** participants and their families, school administration (if applicable), Teaching Artists, and Bard Education staff
- **Help us create the rehearsal schedule**
- **Supervise and engage** with the Troupe during all Bard Youth Fest activities
- **Coordinate transportation** for participants to all Youth Fest events (stage rehearsal and finale showcase)

Timeline:

By Monday, November 25 at 11:59pm: [Application deadline](#)

February to May: Create and rehearse!

Thursday, May 8: Attend a stage rehearsal at the [BMO Theatre Centre](#). Exact times TBD based on Troupe availability.

Friday, May 9: Bard Youth Fest Finale! Troupes will share and celebrate each other's pieces in a showcase at [BMO Theatre Centre](#) on Newmont Stage. Exact times TBD.

Where will it happen?

- **Rehearsals:** School-based troupes will rehearse at their schools. Bard Education hosts rehearsals for the “Indie Troupe” (troupe of individual applicants) at the BMO Theatre Centre on Tuesdays from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.
- **Stage rehearsal & Finale:** on the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre in Vancouver’s Olympic Village.

What does it cost?

~~\$3,500 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 *Scripts & Resources*

Our Bard Education team have many interactive, inquiry-based resources to offer you and your troupe. These can be used to support the Troupe’s exploration of Shakespeare and enhance your own teaching practice! Resources include theatre games with a focus on expression and language, and “Shakespeare Shorts”, or abridged versions of popular plays.

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