



Bard Youth Fest Spring 2026

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 their short interpretation of excerpts from a Shakespeare play**
- **The Troupe will share their work** in the Bard Youth Fest finale on **May 8, 2026**.

Timeline:

Application Window November 2026	Pre-Program Coordination December 2025 – January 2026	Create & Rehearse Early February to early May, 2026	Finale Events May 7 & May 8, 2026
--	---	---	---

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

December to January: We review submissions and contact applicants either way in December. We aim to have matched participating Troupes with their Bard Coach and have rehearsal schedules set by mid-January.

Early February to May: Create and rehearse! Our team will coordinate with the Troupe Liaison and Bard Coach to create your rehearsal schedule.

Thursday, May 7: Attend a stage rehearsal at the [BMO Theatre Centre](#). Exact times TBD based on Troupe availability.

Friday, May 8: Bard Youth Fest Finale! Troupes will share and celebrate each other's pieces in a showcase at [BMO Theatre Centre](#) on Newmont Stage. Approximately 11am – 3pm.

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.

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, 2026
- **Resources:** such as text, abridged scripts, games, and acting exercises
- A **venue for the 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 our team set your troupe’s rehearsal schedule**
- **Supervise and engage** with the Troupe during all Bard Youth Fest activities
- **Coordinate transportation** for participants to Youth Fest finale events (stage rehearsal and finale showcase)

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*