

# Camp Shakespeare '12

## PROLOGUE

**Camp Shakespeare, a component of The University of Texas Shakespeare at Winedale Program, is a two-week residential camp for young people, ages 11-16, held near the small rural town of Round Top (pop. 77), Fayette County, Texas, with daily activity at the University of Texas Winedale Historical Center.**

**Camp Shakespeare is dedicated to exploring a Shakespearean play through performance. This is an experience in daily performance, in exploring language and character, in doing, playing at play. It is not an “acting” or “theater” camp. Here, we celebrate the creative process. We do not rehearse “shows.”**

**Camp Shakespeare seeks kids who work well with others, who are inventive, elastic, eager to explore and take risks, and are ready to rumble when they arrive.**

**The following observations by a former (1980) Shakespeare at Winedale student whose daughter (age 12) attended Camp Shakespeare, and the parent of a recent camper (age 16), say quite a bit about what happens at Camp Shakespeare:**

*Their accomplishment [at Camp] is the more remarkable when we consider that none of these students are theater or drama students but only kids interested in working together to explore a play through performance, the original purpose of Shakespeare at Winedale. In the process, their play becomes a vehicle for their exploration of language, of social encounter and problem-solving, for developing self-confidence and self-esteem, verbal and written expression, and, through Shakespeare, for gaining insight into the human condition.*

*Looking in from the outside, it's a pretty risky thing that Camp Shakespeare is doing. I actually think that's why it works. It creates the right community for those kids – it's not about me, it's about us; it's about the play. The kids realize what amazing stuff they can accomplish in just two weeks' time by letting go. The camp empowers kids to be themselves and use what they've got, and puts faith in them that they can do it. Believing*

*they can do it, they do!*

**Camp Shakespeare accepts applications from candidates anywhere, in public, private, or home schools. Experience with theater or with Shakespeare is not necessary. Commitment to working long hours daily at play with others is.**

## **CAMP DATES**

**Camp Shakespeare will offer two sessions for Summer 2012:**

**Session #1: Sunday, June 10 - Saturday, June 23**

**Session #2: Sunday, July 1 – Saturday, July 14**

## **CAMP FEE**

**The cost of Camp Shakespeare '12 is \$1,000.00. Some scholarships are available.**

## **CAMP SITE**

**The site of Camp Shakespeare '12 is the Briarfield B & B Retreat & Conference Center, near Round Top, Texas. The Inn provides a comfortable country and historical setting for the experience: students enjoy the privilege of using and the responsibility of caring for these beautifully-restored 19<sup>th</sup> century Texas buildings which serve as dormitories, dining, and gathering spaces.**

## **DAILY SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITY**

**Campers begin their day quite early, at 6:30 with cabin-cleaning and other assigned duties before meeting in groups or one-on-one with the staff to work on lines, characterization, or a scene at 7:00. A brief period of physical and vocal exercise follows. Then breakfast. Morning and afternoon work/play sessions (from 8:15-4:00) take place in the Theater Barn at Winedale, in La**

**Grange at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center Amphitheater, and other places we find. Every lunch is a picnic, prepared and set out by campers. Late afternoon sessions (4:00-6:00) are busy with Journal writing, relaxation exercises, quiet time, painting, mask-making, lines, and preparing for the evening. Improvised “problem-solving” exercises, singing, dancing, and free improvisational play follow supper. The day concludes with film sequences of Shakespeare’s plays and Cabin Time, wherein campers “unwind” and exchange responses to accomplishments of the day. Lights out : 9:00 p.m.**

## **PUBLIC PERFORMANCE**

**Public performances of the plays will be held for Session 1 on Friday, June 22, at the La Grange Amphitheater and on Saturday, June 23, at Winedale; and for Session 2, on Friday, July 13, at the La Grange Amphitheater, and on Saturday, July 14, at Winedale.**

## **STAFF**

### **Director:**

**Professor Jim (Doc) Ayres, Founding Director of Shakespeare at Winedale, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of The University of Texas.**

### **Associate Directors:**

**Kendle Wade. Kendle has been counselor and associate director for 8 years. She holds a BA in Plan II from The University of Texas and an MA from The University of Colorado.**

**Robin Grace Thompson. This will be Robin’s 4th year as counselor and associate director. She holds a B.A. in Theater from St Edwards University and is a founding member of the DA! Theater Collective.**

## **Interns:**

**Austen Hyde.** Austen is an alumnus of both Camp Shakespeare the Winedale Outreach to Schools Program.. He has been studying and performing Shakespeare for half his life and is thrilled to be participating in his sixth summer at camp. Austen graduated from the McCallum Fine Arts Academy in 2010; he currently studies Comparative Literature and Literary Translation at Brown University, where he also enjoys playing piano and saxophone and serving as Vice Chair of the university's only site-specific performance company, Shakespeare on the Green.

**Malena Pennycook.** Malena has been a part of Camp Shakespeare since '07 and is ecstatic to be returning for her first year as an intern. She has recently completed her junior year at Lake Travis High School in Austin, TX where she spends most her time acting, running, studying, being with friends and trying new things.

**Willa Staats.** Willa Staats is a senior at McCallum High School in Austin, Texas. She attended Camp Shakespeare from '06 to '09, and is thrilled to reawaken the energy and passion she had when attending the camp, now acting as an intern. Upon graduating, Willa will either enroll at a small liberal arts college studying languages and international relations, or will spend a "Global Citizen Year" doing public service projects in Senegal or Brazil.

## **CAMP POLICIES**

**At Camp Shakespeare, we hope to create together a highly original, extraordinary learning experience. We have a country setting for that, much like Shakespeare's forest of Arden or the wood outside Athens. There is a different clock here. This world is filled with magic,**

wonder, song, and words and we do it without cell phones, computers, ipods, radios, or electronic games. The only TV game show here is Shakespeare. We do encourage campers to bring musical instruments of any kind. Upon acceptance into the program, campers are notified of what items to bring and not to bring.

## **TELEPHONE CONTACT AND VISITATION**

Camp staff members notify parents of a camper's illness and/or problems with following the daily schedule or working with others, explaining how we are addressing those difficulties. Parents wishing to contact campers for any reason should call any of the three staff members at any time.

Parents and friends are welcome to visit Camp Shakespeare during the afternoon of the "middle" Sunday in Session 1 (June 17), and on July 4 in Session 2.

## **APPLICATION**

Each session will be composed of 14 students. Applications are available on the [shakespeare-winedale.org](http://shakespeare-winedale.org) website.

Two application forms are available on this website, one for prospective campers, one for former campers.

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

The completed file should be sent to Professor Jim Ayres, P.O. Box 202, Round Top, Tx, 78954, before April 15.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

**All applications are reviewed by a committee composed of the director and the counselors/associate directors. We will select equal numbers of boys and girls, a balance of new and former campers and a fair representation of all ages (11-16). We attempt to honor the applicant's first choice for session but often we have to take the second because of former/new, gender, age, balance we seek. Often we cannot select candidates who select only one session, for the same reasons.**

**As we read applications, we give major consideration to the applicant's ability to live, work, and play cooperatively and generously with others; to a desire for shared and disciplined play experience; a willingness to try new things, risk, and explore; and to a firm commitment to the ensemble approach wherein everyone has equal chance and to the schedule of residential activities we propose. These qualities should be emphasized in both the student application essay and the two letters of recommendation from teachers.**

**We hope that applicants will apply to Camp Shakespeare for the opportunities it offers for play. Every activity is directed toward inventing, creating, and developing a communal, ensemble, play experience. Our performance of the play arises out of that experience.**

**We do not audition applicants. We select them from the recommendations sent to us and through the application process.**

**Applicants are therefore applying for a play experience, not a specific Shakespearean play or part. The plays will be announced once we have made the final selections. After notification of selection, campers will receive role (character) assignments and suggestions about preparation.**

## **NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE**

**Candidates will be notified of acceptance by April 20, '12 and are expected to acknowledge acceptance by e-mail. To secure registration, parents should send either partial (\$500.00) or full (\$1,000.00) fee payment to Professor Ayres, Camp Shakespeare, P.O. Box 202, Round Top, Tx, 78954.**

## **PREPARATION FOR CAMP**

**Upon acceptance, campers will be sent a text of the play chosen (with plenty of space for questions and annotation), role assignments, information about what to bring to Camp, a Release and Indemnification form and a Medical History report (to be returned by mail before arrival). Campers prepare for Camp by reading and re-reading the play and by working toward understanding language and characterization. Campers are expected to have memorized all of their assigned lines by the arrival date. Campers may at any time e-mail the director for assistance, advice, suggestions, or answers to questions arising during this period of preparation.**

**Campers who arrive at Camp without the preparation noted above may be dismissed from Camp.**

## **A SUMMARY**

**Camp Shakespeare seeks kids who:**

- work well with others**
- are inventive, elastic, eager to explore and take risks**
- are ready to rumble when they arrive**

**-desire to live, work, and play cooperatively and generously with others**

**-have a desire for shared and disciplined play experience**

**-have a willingness to try new things, risk, and explore**

**-will have a firm commitment to the ensemble approach**

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Our web site, [shakespeare-winedale.org](http://shakespeare-winedale.org), carries up-to-date information about the summer camp. Parents and candidates are urged to check the site weekly for new information and possible changes. Questions of any kind about Camp Shakespeare '12 should be directed to Doc Ayres at [jayres@cvctx.com](mailto:jayres@cvctx.com). Students wishing to learn more about the process of Camp Shakespeare may wish to participate in the Spring activities of the Outreach to Schools Programs or "Saturday Shakespeare" workshops at The University of Texas directed by Clayton Stromberger, [cstromberger@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:cstromberger@mail.utexas.edu).**