

About Shakespeare Festival/LA



OUR MISSION

To enchant, enrich, and build community through professional theatrical traditions that are accessible to all.

WHO WE ARE

Since 1985, Shakespeare Festival/LA has been a cherished community resource. Whether it's through nationally recognized youth and education programming; award-winning, free, professional outdoor productions that uniquely reflect the people, landscape and history of Los Angeles; or presentation of the Crystal Quill, a national award recognizing enduring contributions to arts education, SF/LA is committed to making the Bard's works accessible, relevant and enriching for people from all walks of life.



WHAT WE DO

Shakespeare Festival/LA brings Shakespeare to the community in through:



Mainstage Performances: Every year, SF/LA presents Angelenos with spectacular evenings of professionally-produced and critically acclaimed performances of Shakespeare's works at our Summer Festival. SF/LA blends old and new to make Shakespeare accessible to all audiences; each classic play is set against a local backdrop to reflect Los Angeles and its diverse cultures. **With the help of members and sponsors, all summer shows in Downtown Los Angeles are free.**

By reflecting the geography and ethnicity of the local community, SF/LA's productions reach beyond the traditional theater crowd, creating a spectacular experience that resonates with people from all walks of life.

Our company's work is infused with the talents of our highly trained actors, inspired directors, world-renowned scholars and Tony Award-winning designers and choreographers.

The Taming of the Shrew (2008)

Inspired by the neighborhoods of L.A. and the roads that connect them, this production was a fresh look at Shakespeare's familiar tale of deal striking and bargain making.

Shakespeare Festival/LA shows commitment to the community through our *Food for Thought* program, which has generated \$2 million worth of non-perishable food for needy families in Los Angeles. Additionally, SF/LA annually provides approximately 600 local students and educators free bus transportation to the performances, and employs alumni from the *Will Power to Youth* program as ushers.

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www.freewillLA.org

"This is the long and the short of it" – *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Act 2, Scene 2)

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WHAT WE DO

Students in WPY's 2008 production of *A Winter's Tale*.



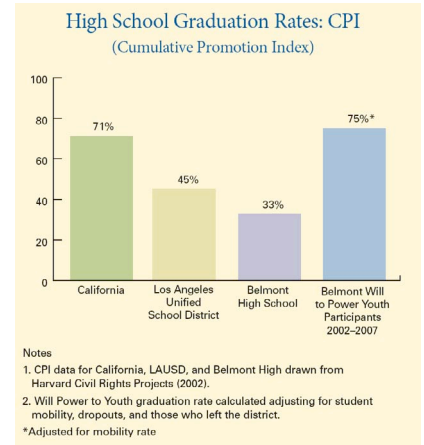
The Youth & Education Department offers a unique blend of programs for adults and youth that combine job training and professional development with academic enrichment, human relations training and hands-on arts experience. Through participation our programs, youth gain increased capacity for economic self sufficiency, confidence in academic settings, conflict resolutions skills and appreciation for diversity.

In an independent study of a local high school, the graduation rate of participating youth in our nationally-acclaimed **Will Power to Youth** program was more than double that of the overall student body.

Spun off of WPY, **Play On!** is a music-based, after-school program where local teens are paid to work with professional artists to create their own poetry, songs and spoken word.

SF/LA's programming has also expanded to enrichment services like **Will to Work**, **Will to Lead** and the **Audition Prep Workshop**, which prepares middle- and high school-aged teens audition for competitive programs such as the L.A. County High School for the Arts and the California State Summer School for the Arts.

Teacher and Artist Training: Through free training programs like Will Power to Schools and the Youth Arts Professionals Institute, SF/LA works with educators nationwide to explore innovative methods for making the study of Shakespeare relevant and exciting for young people.



Graph from the 2007 Impact Report prepared by Dr. Simeon Slovacek.



First Lady Laura Bush presents Will Power to Youth, SF/LA's premiere arts education program, with the White House's Coming Up Taller Award (2003).

(L-R) Chris Anthony, SF/LA Director of Youth & Education; Jose Hererra, youth; Laura Bush & Dan Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts

Help us build community, play by play!

Consider a tax-deductible donation, become a Member, sponsor an event, or sign-up for our mailing list and get uniquely linked to the SF/LA community year round!

Shakespeare Festival/LA
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