

ABOUT THE YOUNG ACTORS SHAKESPEARE CONSERVATORY *directed by Karen Ball and Michael Levine*

A seventh-month program designed to provide developing actors the ability to interpret Shakespearean language in performance. Participants will meet on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. beginning in October of 2011 and ending in late April of 2012 with a performance showcase at a venue in downtown Portland. Actors in the program will learn sonnets, soliloquies and short scenes in the course of the program, and the final showcase performance will be open to the public.

The program will follow a 4-part program designed to provide actors with the tools necessary to properly interpret Shakespeare's poetry. The methodology employed by the directors is heavily influenced by the work of Kristen Linklater, Shakespeare and Company, and Anne Bogart's "Viewpoints" work. Acorn's Producing Director Michael Levine directs the training, with assistance from Acorn's Assistant Director of Training Karen Ball and other members of the Naked Shakespeare Ensemble.

PART I: SONNET WORK

Actors will begin the program studying the structure and form of Shakespeare's sonnets. Each participant will choose a sonnet to analyze and explore through voice and movement activities. By the end of this part of the work, each actor will have a sonnet ready for performances.

PART II: SOLILOQUY WORK

Each participant will be assigned a 15 to 20 line speech from a Shakespeare play to develop into a performance piece. The directors will assist the actors in finding a playable action and using the imagery in the text to communicate their psychological state. Actors will place the speech in a contemporary context in order to increase the accessibility of their performances.

PART III: SCENE WORK

Actors will be paired up in order to explore a short scene from a well-known Shakespeare play. These scenes will be fully staged and performed at a scene night in January.

PART IV: PRODUCTION OF THE SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE

Participants will culminate their work by choosing pieces to be packaged together into a more fully-realized evening of theater. The final few weeks of the program will be spent polishing these pieces into performance-ready condition through rehearsals under the direction of Karen Ball.

Tuition for the program is \$400, with a \$50 discount for registrations paid in full by June 1st (returning students receive an additional \$50 discount on tuition).

All sessions (other than the final performances) take place at the Acorn Studio Theater in the Dana Warp Mill in Westbrook. The program is designed for actors aged 12 – 19.

Please visit www.acorn-productions.org or call 854-0065 to register.