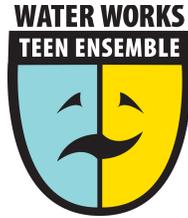




320 W. Seventh Street Suite 200
Royal Oak Michigan 48067
248) 399-3727

Frannie Shepherd-Bates, Education Director
education@waterworkstheatre.com



Dear Water Works Parent or Guardian:

Now entering its seventh year with a new name, Water Works Teen Ensemble, our extraordinary high school-age two-week outdoor performance intensive, is producing Shakespeare's classic *Hamlet*. I'm thrilled to be returning this year as the program's and production's director, along with my talented colleague Patrick Hanley as assistant director, fight choreographer, and stage management mentor.

The high school-aged ensemble will work together during an intensive nine-day rehearsal process culminating in three live performances of *Hamlet* on our Shakespeare in the Park stage. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, July 17-Thursday, July 20: rehearsals to be scheduled based on actors' availability.
Monday, July 24-Friday, July 28: rehearsal 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Performances: July 29 and 30 at 12:00 p.m.; July 31 at 7:00 p.m.
Students are required to be present one hour prior to each performance time.

Each participating student will be given eight complimentary tickets to distribute as they choose. Tickets will be sold to performances on a pay-what-you-can basis, with \$5 being the suggested donation. Parents volunteering for hospitality and box office before each performance need not pay for a ticket or use one of the provided comps.

Auditions for *Hamlet* will be held on June 4 from 2-6 p.m. at Starr Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of 13 Mile Road and Crooks Road. Appointments can be made by emailing me at frannie@waterworkstheatre.com. Students must be *registered* to be cast in the show. If you are unable to audition, you will still receive a role if you wish join the ensemble later. Registration is only \$300 per student, and available now on our website (or by mailing in the included form); space is limited and our registration deadline is June 30.

We are also excited once more to welcome students with targeted interests in directing, stage managing and design (costumes, props, sound) skills; these students need only register, and may attend auditions as an interview process, although this is not required.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Can you tell me more about the Water Works Teen Ensemble?

While our *Hamlet* will be somewhat abridged, it will keep all of its action, drama, and beautiful poetry. Students will be expected to arrive on the first day of rehearsal with their lines very close to *memorized*, ready to dive into learning advanced acting techniques and immediately begin staging the show. We'll work hard even as we're having tons of fun!

What will rehearsals be like?

In the first week, we'll spend some time getting to know each other and the script, and we'll begin staging, likely on the second day of rehearsal. The rest of the first week will be focused on blocking, character work, and dance and fight choreography. In the second week, our days will be structured so that we neither burn out nor get bored – we'll do advanced scene work as we put our show together, taking it scene by scene and building it into a full production. There will be plenty of time to review both dance and fight choreography. By Friday (if not sooner), we'll be able to run our show all the way through at least twice with all technical elements so that students are prepared for their performances. In an ensemble approach, even students who are not in a given scene will have ample input into its staging, and there are virtually limitless possibilities in terms of casting and stage time for everyone.

What will non-actors be doing during this program?

Students interested in directing, stage managing, and design (costumes, props, sound) will have opportunities not only to shadow professionals as they work, but will be asked to take initiative in their area of interest to actively contribute to the process and production.

What do we need to bring to rehearsals?

Healthy snacks and water are provided daily in the second week; however, Water Works **will not** provide lunch. Be advised that this summer's program will be **nut free**. It is suggested that each student bring a lunch packed with a beverage, insect repellent, and sun block. Loose, comfortable clothing appropriate to the weather, including a hat, is also recommended. For the comfort and safety of your student, we ask that **NO** Crocs, clogs or flip-flops be worn. Sturdy shoes that buckle or tie are required.

What are the requirements for auditions?

Students are asked to memorize one Shakespearean monologue (1-2 minutes long) for their auditions. Students are free to audition with any piece they like, or to download suggested pieces, as well as audition tips and etiquette, from our website. No headshots or resumes are required! To schedule an audition, email: education@waterworkstheatre.com. If you can't make the audition, don't worry – everyone who registers by June 30 will be cast in the show!

Please note: students who are interested in design and wish to attend auditions to as part of their process need not perform a monologue. Please contact me for more information!

What happens if it rains?

We have an alternate location in case of rain, details of which will be shared with students after they register.

Will there be costumes? What will they be like?

The ensemble will determine what costumes are necessary for our telling of this story, and parents/guardians should rest assured that they will not need to be anything that cannot be pulled from closets!

I am excited to work with your teen performers this summer! Please feel free to email me at education@waterworkstheatre.com with any and all questions.

Sincerely,

Frannie Shepherd-Bates
Director of Education
Water Works Theatre Company