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Cape May Stage Offers “Summer SHAKESperience” Youth Theatre Camp this Summer at the Jersey Shore

Cape May Stage

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The Robert Shackleton Playhouse

Bank & Lafayette Streets, Cape May, NJ 08204

www.capemaystage.com

“Summer SHAKESperience”

Cape May Stage’s Education Outreach Summer Camp

Program Dates:

August 3- 15, 2009 (10-3PM)

Performance Date:

August 15, 2009 (1PM)

Cape May, NJ – May 20, 2009- Attention all budding actors ages 9 to18: Have you ever wanted to be on stage? To take a story, make it come alive, and share that experience with an audience? This season Cape May Stage’s Education Outreach department builds on the successes of their annual popular summer camps, by offering students the “Summer SHAKESperience” program. Mondays through Fridays, from August 3 to August 15, students will spend time learning from top-notch professionals and theatre artists in a two-week intensive acting program.

Students looking to learn their stage right from their stage left, or those wanting to learn new techniques to expand their acting abilities will find the “Summer SHAKESPEAREience” acting camp the perfect opportunity to experience the process firsthand, from first rehearsal to final performance.

The central material of the camp is the work of one of the greatest playwrights in human history, whose stories are still popular centuries after their creation — William Shakespeare. This summer’s production, *Much Ado About Nothing*, promises fun for actors and audiences alike. It features a story filled with scheming villains, bumbling

constables, and smart-mouthed romantic rivals, where the witty insults fly back and forth almost as fast as Cupid's arrows!

Cape May Stage has established a history of educational programs that give students valuable experiences interacting with their peers and mentors. This year's "Summer SHAKESPEAREience" is no exception. Students will explore acting techniques designed for creating believable characters and honest, spontaneous performances. Under the direction of Cape May Stage's Education Outreach Director Donald Toal, students will also learn methods for understanding and communicating Shakespeare's language and style, as well as the background of his life and plays. Toal has hired Temple graduate Mims Friedman Mast and DeSales University graduate Lisa Rigazio, who bring experience in performing, improv techniques, and vocal direction, to serve as guest teaching artists at this year's program.

A select few students will also have the opportunity to serve as Apprentices for the camp, shadowing a mentor teacher and seeing the production process through the eyes of the director and production staff. Our professional teaching artists provide a supportive, insightful and (most importantly) fun environment that allows students to build new skills, communicate with their peers, and expand their horizons. All teens and pre-teens with interest in the arts are encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Space is limited.

About The Teachers

Donald Toal, Cape May Stage's Education Outreach Coordinator brings a variety of experiences both on and off stage with his BA degree in Theatre Education from DeSales University. A long-time native of the Jersey Shore, Donald has been fortunate to work with a number of local theatre groups as stage manager including the Margate Players (*Music Man, Jr., Wizard of Oz*), and the historic Gateway Playhouse (for their multi-season run of *The Odd Couple*). Donald has had many opportunities to act as both a teacher and director to young thespians. This involvement includes his work as a Drama Specialist for the Milton and Betty Katz Jewish Community Center's 'Camp by the Sea' program in Margate, an Acting/Theatre Arts teacher for Cygnus Arts Center in Egg Harbor Township, and numerous children's theatre productions throughout the area. Donald owes much of his enthusiasm for theatre to the teachers who encouraged and guided him as a student. Thus, he is very grateful to have the opportunity to pass that same appreciation onto budding generations of actors and theatergoers.

Mims Friedman Mast is making her debut as a contributing teaching artist for Cape May Stage's Summer SHAKESperience's production of *Much Ado about Nothing*. A graduate of Temple University and communication studies professor, Mims has worked both on and offstage in a variety of roles, including performing in many regional productions. Credits include: *Antigone* (Antigone), *The Lady's Not for Burning* (Margaret) and *Forum* (Gemini). For California State theater at Sacramento: *Candide* (Cunegonde) and *Chorus Line Redux* (Morales). Emerson College Musical Theater at

Wang Center, Boston; *Betrayal* (Emma). *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel); and, *Bye, Bye, Birdie* (Ursula) for Temple University Theater. Technical credits include Property master and Dresser for Miami City Ballet and Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts, in Naples, Florida. During the last decade, Mims has coached musical theater students in vocal technique, public speaking, pageant platforms and diction. A former comedian and writer under the mentorship of Denis Leary and Peter Tolan, she is a working member of Writer's Guild East and has written continuity and character development for *Rescue Me*.

Teaching artist **Lisa C. Rigazio**, a native of Rhode Island and the stages of Newport, Lisa is excited to get her feet wet on the Jersey Shore. Lisa holds a BA in Theatre from DeSales University, but owes more of her acting education to her experiences with several Rhode Island-area groups, including the Bristol Theatre Company (*Cats*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*), the Newport Repertory Theatre (*Our Town*, *The Alcestiad*), and The Bit Players, winner of Rhode Island's Motif Award for Best Improv Comedy Troupe. Lisa places her roots in children's theatre, having grown from fellow actor since age nine to serve in positions from technician to choreographer to director with several summer theatre camps based in Newport and Providence, Rhode Island, over the last 10 years.

Enrollment Information

The two-week program will be held this summer, August 3- August 15 from 10AM to 3PM at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse, located at the corner of Bank & Lafayette Streets in historic Cape May, NJ. The total cost of the two-week camp program will be \$325.00. This includes a half scholarship awarded to each Apprentice as compensation for their work. Each student/parent must send an advance deposit (non-refundable) of \$50.00 to secure their slot in the camp. The remaining balance of \$275.00 must be paid by Monday, July 27, one week before the first day of camp. Checks can be made payable to Cape May Stage. Further information and registration forms can be found and downloaded on the company's website www.capemaystage.com or can be mailed by request. For more information or to enroll today, call Cape May Stage at (609) 884-1341.