



Shakespeare in the Schools Tour 2007
The Tragedy of Othello
Information Packet

OVERVIEW

We would like the performance to start off the Shakespeare in the Schools program at your school, preferably no earlier than 8:45am. Immediately following the performance is a post-show discussion between the students and the acting company. This can last up to 30 minutes. The students and actors are then led to the workshop locations, and the first of two sessions of workshops begins. You may choose any two workshops for the first session, and any two for the second session (four workshops total). Generally, the performance, post-show discussion, and up to four workshops take about a half of a school day. We understand that with some school schedules, we will need to break for lunch period.

CONTACT PERSON

It is **very important** that there be a contact person available to meet the Company upon their arrival. As we are unfamiliar with each school, searching for information can become time consuming and cut into valuable set-up time. Our company manager will locate the office, and we ask that the contact person be waiting there, unless they come out to meet the van. Please keep in mind that about 45 minutes are needed for set-up and tear down. Our performances and workshops are completely self-contained, but often questions arise concerning load-ins, set-up and peculiarities that are specific for each school. On the day of arrival the following five items are essential to insure a smooth program. We ask that the contact person please be available to:

1. Direct the actors to the location of the load-in area that is closest to the performance space.
2. Supply information about class bells, scheduled fire drills (yes, we've had some!) or morning announcements. As you can imagine, announcements can be extremely disruptive. (Often, it is possible to request in advance that administration hold announcements and school bells on the day of performance.)
3. Let the company manager know when all the students have arrived and are seated so the performance can begin.
4. Directly after the performance, usher the actors to their workshops.
5. Arrange for 204 students to arrive 15 minutes before the performance to pass out programs at the entrances. We would like to make sure that each student gets a program.
6. Present a check to the Company Manager if it has not already been sent to the MSIP office. Checks should be made payable to ***Shakespeare in the Parks***.

PERFORMANCE

Seven professional actors will present an engaging 80-minute performance of *The Tragedy of Othello*, geared towards middle and high school aged students.

The playing space needs to be a minimum of 20 feet deep by 28 feet wide with a height of at least 12 feet. We can easily adapt into a larger playing space but a smaller space (particularly one that is less than 12 feet in height) will be extremely difficult and would compromise the visual aspects of the production.

If we will be performing in your gym, please double check restrictions or concerns your school might have regarding gym floors. We ask that, due to time constraints, if your school requires mats for the gym floor, **they be spread before our arrival. Please have the space cleared and accessible to the actors upon their arrival. (We are very careful to respect gym floors if your school does **not** require mats, and indeed prefer this for better footing as mats are uneven and tend to slide.)

Shakespeare in the Schools' performance will utilize whatever lighting is available. If we are performing in your auditorium and you can control your house lights, it would enhance the performance if there is someone available to operate them.

Following the performance, there will be a post-show discussion ranging from 15 to 30 minutes, depending upon student participation and your schedule.

WORKSHOPS

Just a reminder: the contact person should be available *directly after* the post-show discussion to direct the actors to their workshops.

Teachers are encouraged to participate with their students in all workshops.

Workshop spaces should be determined before the performance day so that searching for available rooms does not cut into your workshop time. **Large, open spaces** work best for these active workshops.

Workshops are adaptable from 35-55 minutes to fit your needs and schedule. A maximum number of participants is included with each workshop description. **In an effort to make the experience effective and meaningful we ask that you do not exceed the maximum number of students for each workshop.** It is very helpful that the students see the performance prior to the workshops.