



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AGREEMENT COVER SHEET

Cover Sheet is an Internal Document for Business Office Use

Please Type

Contractor full name: Elm Shakespeare Co.

Doing Business As, if applicable: N/A

Business Address: PO Box 206029 New Haven, CT 06520

Business Phone: 203-392-8882

Business email: rebecca@ElmShakespeare.org, education@elmshakespeare.org

Funding Source & Acct # including location code: 270-433-0019-56697

Principal or Supervisor: Sandra Kaliszewski

Agreement Effective Dates: From 10/12/2022. To 06/30/2023.

Hourly rate or per session rate or per day rate. \$100 per day

Total amount: \$4000

Description of Service: Please provide a one or two sentence description of the service. *Please do not write "see attached."* This contractor will provide the afterschool Shakespeare program with an adapted play appropriate for grades 4 through 8. They provide instruction in Shakespearean language, acting, and stage direction.

Submitted by: Sandra Kaliszewski Phone: 475-220-2800



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Memorandum

To: New Haven Board of Education Finance and Operations Committee
From: Sandy Kaliszewski
Date: October 12, 2022
Re: Elm Shakespeare Co Agreement

Please **answer all questions and attach any required documentation as indicated below.** Please have someone **ready to discuss** the details of each question during the Finance & Operations meeting or this proposal might not be advanced for consideration by the full Board of Education.

1. **Contractor Name:** Elm Shakespeare Co
2. **Description of Service:** This contractor will provide the afterschool Shakespeare program with an adapted play appropriate for grades 4 through 8. They provide instruction in Shakespearean language, acting, and stage direction.
3. **Amount** of Agreement and hourly or session cost: \$100 per day totaling \$4000
4. **Funding Source** and account number: 270-433-0019-56697
5. Approximate number of staff served through this program or service: none
6. Approximate number of students served through this program or service: 30 students
7. **Continuation/renewal or new Agreement?** Continuation/renewal
Answer all questions:
 - a. If continuation/renewal, has the cost increased? If yes, by how much? No
 - b. What would an alternative contractor cost: N/A
 - c. If this is a continuation, when was the last time alternative quotes were requested? N/A
 - d. For new or continuation: is this a service existing staff could provide. If no, why not?
This program provides the school with expert skills that can only be attained through a collaborative partnership with Elm Shakespeare and their trained arts staff.
8. **Type of Service:**
Answer all questions:
 - a. Professional Development? No
 - i. If this is a professional development program, can the service be provided by existing staff? If no, why not?
 - b. After School or Extended Hours Program? After School
 - c. School Readiness or Head Start Programs? N/A
 - d. Other: (Please describe)

9. Contractor Classification:

Answer all questions:

- a. Is the Contractor a Minority or Women Owned Business? No
- b. Is the Contractor Local? Yes
- c. Is the Contractor a Not-for-Profit Organization? If yes, is it local or national? Local Not-for-Profit
- d. Is the Contractor a public corporation? No
- e. Is this a renewal/continuation Agreement or a new service? Continuation/renewal
- f. If it is a renewal/continuation has cost increased? If yes, by how much? No
- g. Will the output of this Agreement contribute to building internal capabilities? If yes, please explain: No

10. Contractor Selection: In this section, please describe the selection process, including other sources considered and the rationale for selecting the contractor. Please answer all questions:

- a. What specific skill set does this contractor bring to the project? Please attach a copy of the contractor's resume if an individual or link to contractor website if a company: Attached copy of the contractor's resume.
- b. How was the Contractor selected? Quotes, RFP/RFQ, Sealed Bid or Sole Source designation from the City of New Haven Purchasing Department? Continuation of service. There is no alternative contractor in New Haven
- c. Is the contractor the lowest bidder? If no, why? Why was this contractor selected? Continuation of service
- d. Who were the members of the selection committee that scored bid applications? N/A
- e. If the contractor is Sole Source, please attach a copy of the Sole Source designation letter from the City of New Haven Purchasing Department.

11. Evidence of Effectiveness & Evaluation

Answer all questions

- a. What **specific need** will this contractor address and how will the contractor's performance be measured and monitored to ensure that the need is met? Elm Shakespeare directed and produced the 21-22 Mauro Sheridan Shakespeare Program "The Tempest". This production was successfully presented for the school, parents and publicly on June 7th. During the course of the program, the students achieved many gains in public speaking, communication, stage presence, responsibility, cooperation and arts project learning.
- b. If this is a **renewal/continuation service** attach a copy of the evaluation or archival data that demonstrates effectiveness. See attached article, and Yale S.O.M. Evaluation Report
- c. How is this service aligned to the District Continuous Improvement Plan? Shakespeare infuses language skills into the student's daily practices and final performance.

1. Why do you believe this Agreement is fiscally sound? This program provides the school with expert skills that can only be attained through a collaborative partnership. Elm Shakespeare has provided our program with extensive services not addressed in our Agreement for the betterment of the program.
2. What are the implications of not approving this Agreement? During the course of this program, students achieve many gains in public speaking, communication, stage presence, responsibility, cooperation.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGREEMENT
By And Between
The New Haven Board of Education
AND

Elm Shakespeare Co.

FOR DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM:

Mauro-Sheridan Interdistrict Magnet School

This Agreement entered into on the 20th day of September 2022, effective (*no sooner than the day after Board of Education Approval*), the 12th day of October, 2022, by and between the New Haven Board of Education (herein referred to as the “Board” and, Elm Shakespeare Co. located at, PO Box 206029 New Haven CT, 06520 (herein referred to as the “Contractor”).

Compensation: The Board shall pay the contractor for satisfactory performance of services required the amount of \$100 per day, hour or session, for a total of 40 days, hours or sessions.

The maximum amount the contractor shall be paid under this agreement: _____ (\$4000). Compensation will be made upon submission of an itemized invoice which includes a detailed description of work performed and date of service.

Fiscal support for this Agreement shall be by Interdistrict Magnet **Program** of the New Haven Board of Education, **Account Number:** 270-433-0019-56697 **Location Code:** 0019.

This agreement shall remain in effect from October 12, 2022 to June 30, 2023

SCOPE OF SERVICE: *Please provide brief summary of service to be provided.*

Artist-in-Residence program for students throughout the 2022-23 school year. Program Overview Elm Shakespeare Company teaching artists will work with students between one and two hours afterschool each week, culminating in a production of a play by William Shakespeare to be performed for friends and family at the end of the school year. Schedule Forty Rehearsal/Workshop Sessions (60-120 minutes in duration) occurring once a week between October 12, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Space needs The residency would need the following space for rehearsal/performance: • One very large empty room (such as cafeteria or gymnasium) in which all students can attend a master class and have room to move and lay down • A stage/auditorium or large open room (could be cafeteria) that can have a 20'x20' playing space with seating for 200 • Ability to leave supplies and teaching materials in a secure location on site Materials and Supplies Elm Shakespeare Company will provide curriculum, scripts and all support/production materials, working with coordinator Jodi Schneider. Mauro Sheridan School will take responsibility for all enrollments, and

provide a roster of names, parent phone/email, gender and birthdates of all participants. ESC will then create check in/check out forms, as well as contacting participant parents with behavior agreements and emergency contact information.. Supervision & Safety ESC and Mauro Sheridan coordinator, Jodi Schneider, will assume joint responsibility for supervision of the students during the residency period. The assigned Program Manager will make an appointment to tour the facilities prior to the start of the program, at which time s/he will be happy to learn about any specific emergency or safety procedures, the location of cleaning supplies, garbage disposal, etc. Marketing and Publicity Mauro Sheridan will take responsibility for all publicity, press and marketing efforts, and agrees to use the Elm Shakespeare Education logo whenever possible and to credit the program as provided by Elm Shakespeare Education.

Exhibit A: Scope of Service: *Please attach contractor's detailed Scope of Service on contractor letterhead with all costs for services including travel and supplies, if applicable.*

Exhibit B: Student Data and Privacy Agreement: *Attached*

APPROVAL: This Agreement must be approved by the New Haven Board of Education ***prior to service start date***. Contractors may begin service no sooner than the day after Board of Education approval.

HOLD HARMLESS: The Contractor shall insure and/or indemnify the Board and its members, employees and agents against all claims, suits, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, in connection with loss of life, bodily injury or property damage arising from any neglect act or omission of the Contractor or its employees or agents. Further, the Contractor covenants and agrees that it shall hold the Board and its members, employees and agents harmless against any and all claims, suits judgments of any description whatsoever caused by the Contractor' breach of this agreement or based upon the conduct of the Contractor, or its agents or its employees or arising out of in connection with their activities under this agreement.

TERMINATION: The Board may cancel this agreement for any reason upon thirty (30) days' written notice sent to the Contractor by certified U.S. mail, return receipt requested; provided however, that the Board shall be responsible to the Contractor for all services rendered by the Contractor through the last day of thirty (30) day notice period, as long as the Agreement was approved by the Board prior to the start date of service.



Contractor Signature

President
New Haven Board of Education

9/19/22

Date

Date

Rebecca Goodheart, Producing Artistic Director
Contractor Printed Name & Title

Revised: 8/2021



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EXHIBIT B

STUDENT DATA PRIVACY AGREEMENT SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For the purposes of this Exhibit B "directory information," "de-identified student information," "school purposes," "student information," "student records," "student-generated content," and "targeted advertising" shall be as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-234aa.

1. All student records, student information, and student-generated content (collectively, "student data") provided or accessed pursuant to this Agreement or any other services agreement between the Parties are not the property of, or under the control of, the Contractor.
2. The Board shall have access to and the ability to delete student data in the possession of the Contractor except in instances where such data is (A) otherwise prohibited from deletion or required to be retained under state or federal law, or (B) stored as a copy as part of a disaster recovery storage system and that is (i) inaccessible to the public, and (ii) unable to be used in the normal course of business by the Contractor. The Board may request the deletion of any such student information, student records or student-generated content if such copy has been used by the operator to repopulate accessible data following a disaster recovery. The Board may request the deletion of student data by the contractor within two (2) business days of receiving such a request and provide to the Board confirmation via electronic mail that the student data has been deleted in accordance with the request, the date of its deletion, and the manner in which it has been deleted. The confirmation shall contain a written assurance from the Contractor that proper disposal of the data has occurred in order to prevent the unauthorized access or use of student data and that deletion has occurred in accordance with industry standards/practices/protocols.
3. The Contractor shall not use student data for any purposes other than those authorized pursuant to this Agreement.
4. A student, parent or legal guardian of a student may review personally identifiable information contained in student data and correct any erroneous information, if any, in such student data. If the Contractor receives a request to review student data in the Contractor's possession directly from a student, parent, or guardian, the Contractor agrees to refer that individual to the Board and to notify the Board within two (2) business days of receiving such a request. The Contractor agrees to work cooperatively with the Board to permit a student, parent, or guardian to review personally identifiable information in student data that has been shared with the Contractor, and correct any erroneous information therein.

5. The Contractor shall take actions designed to ensure the security and confidentiality of student data.
6. The Contractor will notify the Board, in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-234dd, when there has been an unauthorized release, disclosure or acquisition of student data. Such notification will include the following steps:

Upon discovery by the Contractor of a breach of student data, the Contractor shall conduct an investigation and restore the integrity of its data systems and, without unreasonable delay, but not more than thirty (30) days after such discovery, shall provide the Board with a more detailed notice of the breach, including but not limited to the date and time of the breach; name(s) of the student(s) whose student data was released, disclosed or acquired; nature of and extent of the breach; and measures taken to ensure that such a breach does not occur in the future.

7. Student data shall not be retained or available to the Contractor upon expiration of the contract between the Contractor and Board, except a student, parent or legal guardian of a student may choose independently to establish or maintain an electronic account with the Contractor after the expiration of such contract for the purpose of storing student- generated content.
8. The Contractor and Board shall each ensure their own compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, as amended from time to time.
9. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees to comply with the above and all other applicable aspects of Connecticut's Student Data Privacy law according to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 10-234aa through 10-234dd.
10. The Parties agree that this Agreement controls over any inconsistent terms or conditions contained within any other agreement entered into by the Parties concerning student data.

Mauro Sheridan Prospers With Prospero

by BRIAN SLATTERY | Jun 7, 2022 8:52 am

[Post a Comment](#) | [E-mail the Author](#)

Posted to: [Arts & Culture](#), [Theater](#), [Westville](#), [Schools](#)

BRIAN SLATTERY PHOTOS

Stephen Julien and cast.

The band room at Mauro-Sheridan Interdistrict Magnet School was full of students getting into their costumes, changing into sailors and spirits, monsters and magicians. They donned robes and fixed their crowns of flowers, then congregated onstage.

“How does everyone feel in their costumes?” asked co-director Justin Pesce.

“Good,” said one student. “Hot,” said another. If they were all still wearing masks due to Covid concerns, it was a detail; what mattered was that, after two years, Mauro Sheridan was mounting its 2022 production of *The Tempest*, in collaboration with Elm Shakespeare Company, in person.

The show runs at Mauro-Sheridan Interdistrict Magnet School on June 7 and June 9 at 6 p.m.

“It’s been a huge adjustment” in getting the in-person program up and running again after a [Zoom-only production of *A Comedy of Errors*](#) in 2021 and a [filmed version of *Cymbeline*](#) in 2020, said Jodi Schneider, who coordinates the Mauro-Sheridan Shakespeare program with Sarah Bowles, Elm Shakespeare Company’s education director. But “they’re doing really well.”

Schneider said that Mauro-Sheridan has faced the same kinds of challenges that so many schools have dealt with since they reopened, from behavioral problems to truancy to students just facing a hard readjustment in catching up, socially and academically. “I can see that it’s challenging for them to be back,” she said. “But when they’re here, they’re great. This is a place where they feel really safe — where they’ve built a community.” That community has stuck together even as some students graduated out of the program without having said goodbye in person, and a host of new students have joined. They still wear masks on stage to protect themselves and one another.

The community the students have made for themselves is mirrored in the relationships the program has with the institutions around it. Mauro-Sheridan remains in full support. The theater program at Hopkins created the set for the Mauro-Sheridan production and Southern Connecticut offered access to its costume department, as in years past.

Moreover, in the next two years the program will be expanding, thanks to a grant from the [Seedlings Foundation](#) the program secured last month. “It was unexpected, and it’s really great,” Schneider said. Next year, “we’ll be able to replicate the program in another school,” and the funds will then allow them to put on a production in a third school the year after that. Elm Shakespeare will be expanding its own education department to accommodate the growing program, which will also include a journalism component.

Candelario.

But for now, the program's energy is focused on *The Tempest*. Luna Candelario, who plays Caliban, has been with the Mauro-Sheridan Shakespeare program for four years, and did acting gigs before that; she won a prize for best kid actress in New Haven's 48-Hour Film Project. "That was my first time delving into theater," she said. The Shakespeare program was "a way to focus on it in school, because we didn't have a theater class until this year."

She found navigating Shakespeare's language to be easier than she expected. "I'm such a bookworm that big words aren't intimidating," she said. "I just say them with confidence — even if I don't know what they really mean," she joked.

Rehab Rajoui, who plays Miranda, started with the program during the pandemic. "It was hard to act on camera," she said of the virtual performances. "If you needed props, you had to get them yourself, and improvise a lot."

Both agreed that it was "really nice" being back, an unleashing of pent-up excitement. For Rajoui, it will be "my first time performing in person." Candelario talked about the thrill of stepping backstage again; "all of the fond memories came back" of pre-pandemic performances. They also confessed to feeling a little pressure — "this is the first play people are seeing now that they're back," Candelario said of the students at the school. "We have more to uphold than if it had been another year."

Stephen Julien, who plays Prospero, also declared live theater to be a welcome change from doing it over Zoom. Live, he said, "you can feel the energy."

All three are graduating Mauro-Sheridan this year; Rajoui will be going to Hill Regional Career High School, Candelario to Hopkins, and Julien to University High School of Science and Engineering in Hartford. The year has gone by quickly for them. "We're back, and now we're leaving," Candelario said. They wonder about what the effects of missing two years of school will be. "I feel like high school is going to be a copy of middle school," said Rajoui.

"Hopefully people in high school will be more mature than that," Julien said.

"You would hope," Rajoui said.

"I want to come back," Candelario said of supporting the program after she has graduated. "I want to help. What I've taken away from all this is teamwork. Just being with a group and learning how to act within a group was such a great experience."

"I know Shakespeare helps me a lot," Rajoui said. Like many people, she was nervous talking in front of crowds of people, and being in theater has boosted her confidence. "Performing moves me away" from being nervous, she said. "You're literally being someone else, so you can perform freely."

Rajoui and Savage.

Rajoui's comment aptly sums up the performance of the *Tempest*. Julien is a commanding Prospero, the wizard who rules the island on which the action of the play takes place. Rajoui is a wistful Miranda, daughter of Prospero who may have found a love interest among the people recently shipwrecked on the island. Candelario rages as Caliban, plotting to usurp Prospero with the aid of other shipwreck

survivors. Edie Stoehr sparkles in her role as Ariel, one of Prospero's servant spirits. Marquez Savage is stately and dignified as Ferdinand, Miranda's love interest. Keldan Aronsen delivers laughs as Stephano, a drunken butler who plots with Caliban, and Reuben Gitelman fully inhabits Gonzalo, advisor to Alonso, Queen of Naples, another shipwreck survivor and Ferdinand's mother. But the play's triumph belongs to everyone; Mauro-Sheridan's *Tempest* a fast-moving, high-action take on the play, with cast members throwing themselves into their roles — filled with the energy of being in the theater again, and rushing toward whatever next year holds.

The *Tempest* runs at *Mauro-Sheridan Interdistrict Magnet School* on June 7 and June 9 at 6 p.m.

Rebecca Goodheart

Curriculum Vitae

110 Second Street, Troy, NY 12180

(240) 626-9388

RebeccaGheart@Gmail.com - RebeccaGoodheart.com



Master of Fine Arts, Directing

American Shakespeare Center/Mary Baldwin College,
Staunton, VA Thesis: Touring Production of Hamlet with
curriculum guide May 2007

Master of Letters, Shakespeare & Renaissance Literature in Performance

American Shakespeare Center/Mary Baldwin College,
Staunton, VA Thesis: Using Shakespeare's Rhetoric Onstage
and in Actor Training January 2007

Bachelor of Fine Arts cum laude, Acting

New York University; Tisch School of the Arts May 1990
University Scholar, Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting

Post Graduate Study:

- Kristin Linklater Voice Center, Orkney — Designated Linklater Voice
- Teacher Shakespeare & Company, Lenox MA
- Theatre Du Jour: Two years daily training & performing in the movement work of Eugenio Barba under B. Stanley

Memberships

- Lifetime Associate Member — Shakespeare Theater Association
- Chairperson - Shakespeare Theater Association 2016 Celebration Steering Committee
- 2010 Appointed Theater Grant Review Panelist — Maryland State Arts Council
- Former Chairman, Council of Artistic Directors — Shakespeare Theater Association of America
- 2009 Leadership Frederick Graduate
- Designated Voice Teacher — Kristin Linklater Voice Center, Orkney Scotland
- Designated Classical Text Teacher — Shakespeare & Company, Lenox, MA
- Member - VASTA
- Artistic Company Member — Shakespeare & Co, Prague Shakespeare Company

Awards & Honors

- 2002 Frederick Magazine People to Watch Award
- 2000 Maryland Governor's Volunteer Recognition
- NYU Founders Award for Academic Excellence
- NYU Oppenheim Award for Outstanding Community Service

- Landmark Education Corporation: Introduction to the Forum Leader

Technical Skills

- Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point)
- Quickbooks Accounting Software
- Dreamweaver (Website Management)
- Microsoft Access Database Management
- Constant Contact
- MailChimp

Sarah Bowles

DIRECTOR, EDUCATOR, THEATRE ARTIST

917.701.8217

strangesnow@gmail.com

Brooklyn, NY

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I have worked as an actor, director, teacher and facilitator with young people and adults for over ten years on a wide variety of theatre projects. I am dedicated to constantly fine tuning my practice as an educator and artist. My approach is student-centered. I am an attentive listener. I have an MA in Applied Theatre, and I specialize in facilitating the creation of original devised theatre based on the interests and ideas of the participants.

SKILLS

Creativity
Works well with others
Solves problems
Self-confident
Curriculum planning
Hard-working
Passionate
Develops strategies
Attention to detail

EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF DRAMA AND MUSIC PROGRAMS

Choo Choo Train Project, Brooklyn, NY. Feb 2008-Present

I created a theatre program at this PreK school. I facilitated the creation of 9 original plays conceived, developed, and performed by the pre-school children. I proposed and taught new music regularly, coordinating with the curriculum. I also helped the children write their own original songs based on their interests.

- Developed a strong passion for bringing the ideas of the ensemble to life
- Gained patience and appreciation for working with young children
- Collaborated with other faculty to incorporate the art and science curriculum into drama performances.
- Trained and supervised new staff members
- Structured an environment for the students that carefully balanced

STAGE MANAGER

Creative Arts Team (CAT) Youth
Theatre, NY, NY.

Jan 2016-March 2016

I stage-managed the CAT Youth Theatre's 2016 original play Walls, directed by Helen White. This play was a devised piece that explored different kinds of walls in the lives of the young people who created it. The piece included scenes about racism, transphobia, inequality and injustice, sexuality, and mental health. I organized rehearsals and logistics for a cast of 35 high school students from diverse backgrounds, residing across all 5 boroughs of New York City. I maintained all aspects of the professional theatre space while in residence. I assisted the director and

staff throughout pre-production, rehearsals, tech, performance, and post-production.

- Created a detailed production book with
- all blocking notation
- Obtained, designed, built, and managed all props.
- Managed and organized all sounds from sound designer
- Increased my ability to keep calm under high pressure

EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS - Applied Theatre
City University of New York (CUNY) 2013-2015

BACHELOR OF ARTS - Theatre Performance
Marymount Manhattan College 1999-2003

ELM SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Proposal for After School Program Mauro Sheridan Interdistrict Middle School

A description of the organization and relevant experience conducting similar services.

Founded in 1995, the Elm Shakespeare Company is a professional, multicultural, nonprofit theatre company committed to providing all of the greater New Haven community with the highest calibre performances of and education programs grounded in Shakespeare's plays. In its 24 year history,



Elm Shakespeare Company has given the gift of FREE professional Shakespeare to over half a million people in Edgerton Park, and inspired thousands of students throughout the city and beyond with its innovative, performance-based education programs. The company is dedicated to igniting a spark in

our shared humanity, and enriching the lives of New Haven citizens no matter their economic status, race, sexual orientation, gender or cultural heritage by bringing world-class artists together with a wide cross-section of the community to explore the timeless stories and poetry of Shakespeare as he was intended — through performance. Beyond performing for the community, Elm Shakespeare Company works with the community to bring these universal stories to life, giving individuals the opportunity to find their voice and be heard in ways that change our community for the better.

Education is at the heart of Elm Shakespeare Company's mission and the company has become known for its outstanding educational outreach working with some of the most respected community organizations in New Haven including: LEAP, BOOST, Common Ground High School, Hopkins School, Hamden Hall Country Day School, St. Thomas's School, Achievement First Greenfield Schools, ConnCat, Housing Authority of New Haven, and more. ESC teaching artists have provided Shakespeare oriented afterschool programming to Mauro Sheridan Middle School for over 6 years. ESC is now building the depth and scope of its always successful education programs thanks to the appointment of an internationally respected expert in Shakespeare Education as the new Producing Director, Rebecca Goodheart. The program in this proposal is modeled on San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's



successful Midnight Shakespeare, a gang prevention program with a 15-year success that Ms. Goodheart ran from 2010-2014.

Relevant professional resume or curriculum vitae of personnel assigned to this project.

See Resume's attached at end of document for:

Rebecca Goodheart — Program Manager

Sarah Bowles — Lead Teaching Artist

A brief description of the consultant's approach to the work.



Addressing the need for healthy and safe educational activities for urban youth during after-school and evening hours, this program is an extra-curricular arts enrichment program designed specifically for these students. Participants learn critical thinking, public speaking, self-confidence, cooperation, academic discipline, and theatrical skills

within the context of producing a shortened version of one of Shakespeare's plays. To succeed, the program creates an atmosphere of fun, ensemble and trust which honors and develops the individual voice of each student, but calls for a rigorous commitment to the group. The program looks not to 'teach kids about classical theater,' but to use the plays and language of Shakespeare to explore every day issues and give the students a chance to explore bigger themes important in our world today, such as the cost of violence, revenge, political and media spin, and the corruption of power.

The structure of the program provides academic support with time for homework completion and general mentoring, then focuses on learning through doing. Students become their own renaissance theater troupe creating a 60-minute performance of a Shakespeare play, making decisions about how best to tell the story through costume, props, music and movement, as well as generating and distributing publicity for their performance. Finally, they will perform the play for classmates, friends and family, while hosting a 'talk-back' to explore the themes they see as relevant to their community.



Professional performers in their own right, Elm Shakespeare teaching artists will lead these teens on the journey, opening conversation and guiding artistic choices for success, while providing rigorous theatrical training that includes voice, movement, acting, stage combat, clown and more. However, at the end of the day it is the student's performance... giving voice to the story (using Shakespeare's language) in a way that empowers them.

The names and contact information of 3 professional references

Marc Michaelson
Regional Superintendent & Expedition Director for
Achievement First Schools
marcmichaelson@achievementfirst.org (203) 668-4838

Joel Tolmann
Lead Partner in 8 Year Shakespeare Residency Program
Common Ground High School
jtolman@commongroundct.org (203) 389-4333

Charlie Alexander
Dean of Students/ Theater Teacher
Hamden Hall Country Day School
Cbair25@gmail.com (203)-464-5399