Theatre Ancaster would like to bring its new production,

**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)**

to your school this fall!

**New: Coming this Fall!**

**The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)**

Performances and workshops
Available to schools during October
Detailed information on the website
Call 905-541-3645

**All 37 plays in 97 minutes**

“If you like Shakespeare
You’ll like this play
If you hate Shakespeare
You’ll love this play!”

**Public Performances**
Sept. 21 - 29 at 8:00 p.m.
For tickets call 905-304-TUNE
Old Firehall Arts Centre

www.TheatreAncaster.com
Theatre Ancaster is a recognized community partner with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and has built a reputation for quality performances and quality youth programming over many years.

Now, for the first time, we would like to offer you the opportunity of bringing their newest production to your school for a performance. Bundled with a trio of engaging workshops, Theatre Ancaster is proud to offer several hours of Shakespeare-themed education which is co-ordinated with Ontario Ministry of Education Guidelines, and geared to grab and hold student interest.

The day begins with a performance of the multiple award winning show, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*. The advertising for this show reads,

“All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes! An irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard’s plays, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* was London's longest-running comedy – 10 years in the West End at the Criterion Theatre! Join these madcap men in tights as they weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter."

Here is a link to the play’s main web site:


- The show is designed for Shakespeare-lovers and haters alike. It is a deliriously fast-paced and hilarious tour through the Bard’s work, designed to hook even hard-to-interest students.

- We will follow the presentations with a short question and answer session with the cast and crew.

- After that, Theatre Ancaster offers a choice of three workshops designed to promote further interest and excitement about the worlds of Shakespeare and the performing arts. These workshops are designed to supplement English and Drama classes.

Theatre Ancaster is offering this package in the month of October, 2012 for the price of $400.00 for the presentation and $100.00 for each workshop selected [+ HST].

Please email mailto:frisk.sam@gmail.com or call 905-541-3645 to book a date today.

Visit [theatreancaster.com](http://theatreancaster.com) for any additional details about Theatre Ancaster or their shows.
Theatre Ancaster Workshop Selections accompanying

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)

Please note: Teacher lessons are available for this presentation and related workshops. There are two lessons in general for preparation and after-viewing, and one lesson corresponding to each of the offered workshops. These workshops are available on request for schools booking the presentation and/or the workshops.

Our workshops are designed to be run in a class of 15 – 25 for one 70 minute class period.

We could offer all three workshops or any combination that suits your needs and interests. [see above for pricing details]

1. Making Shakespeare Fun
   [see details related to Ontario Curriculum Guidelines in the lesson documents]

Reading Shakespeare is often difficult for high school students because of the Shakespearean English. Between different spellings and words they've never heard of, students can find Shakespearean plays quite daunting. This workshop takes the focus from the written script and moves it to the action generated by the script.

Includes:

- Sword fights
- Shakespearean insults
- Ghosts and murders
- The behaviour of patrons – in “the pit”
- Plots and revenge
- Enhancing some choice lines from the most famous scripts

Structure:

This workshop is designed to help a class understand some of the audience-appealing qualities of Shakespeare's work that makes it stand the test of time.

The workshop aims to get students on their feet immediately and gets them into the spirit of Shakespeare's work. We look at some of the physically appealing and dramatically significant qualities that Othello, Romeo and Juliet, and Hamlet have to offer.

For example in this interactive workshop:

- We take the students through an introduction to stage fighting with swords (no loss of fingers allowed)
• the atmosphere of the theatre in Shakespeare's day
• and the timeless set pieces that everyone can relate to at the heart of Shakespeare's work such as the deaths in Othello, the kiss, street conflicts and duel of Romeo and Juliet, and the ghost and murder scenes in Hamlet

This workshop culminates in a shortened and light-hearted presentation of one of Shakespeare's plays in both the original and modern language. (one class period)

2. How to Play Comedy in All its Forms [see details related to Ontario Curriculum Guidelines in the lesson documents]

We know that Shakespeare wasn't all dreary monologues about suicide. His work is peppered with jokes and opportunities for physical comedy and sight gags. Comedy is broad, but playing comedy is a fine art, which we want our students to have the confidence to try.

Includes:
• Telling jokes
• Pratfalls
• Basic stage combat techniques
• Using your eyebrows and other facial expressions to great comic effect
• Comedy team-work

Structure:

This workshop is designed to walk a class through the delicate art of comedy.

• The instructors use small groups to take the class through different types of comedy and how to properly employ the devices and techniques.
• Some people have a natural sense for comedy, but we seek to teach that all actors can play comedy if they are willing to allow themselves to look foolish.

For example in this interactive workshop, we demonstrate and invite students to participate in:

• physical comedy such as pies to the face, falling down to great comedic effect, using your face to make others laugh, and light stage combat including slaps and tosses
• verbal comedy such as jokes, puns, and witty remarks
• surprise comedy that relies on the introduction of the absurd into normal situations

This workshop culminates in a short presentation of comedic techniques by small groups, hopefully, to everyone's amusement. (one class period)
3. **Improv** [see details related to Ontario Curriculum Guidelines in the lesson documents]

Improvisation is a drama technique that is used by most actors. It can be used either as a practice technique to allow actors to explore their characters or to allow actors to 'get to know' the character they are playing and how they feel and respond to other actors on stage, or it can be a public performance in its own right.

Improvisation is basically drama without a script which allows freedom for the actor. It usually involves the actors acting out a scene without any pre-planning so the ideas are fresh and unique.

Stage improvisation is a difficult and complex skill that is extremely useful in every aspect of life. Who wouldn't want to be a quick-thinking jester with a witty remark ready for every situation? Actors in “Improv” are appreciated for their wit, and ability to put one another in difficult situations and escape from them with panache.

Includes:

- Improv techniques
- Different situations in which to employ stage improv
- Improv scenarios
- Exercises to keep you ready at a moment's notice

Structure:

This workshop is designed to allow a class of students to take a stab at one of the most intimidating aspects of live theatre - improvisation.

The instructors of this workshop begin with a handful of exercises and games to get the class loosened up and thinking quickly on their feet before plunging them into situations where those quick-thinking skills will see them through a number of scenarios and performance situations.

This workshop culminates in a fast paced game show that pits classmates against one another as contestants in a battle of wits and improvisation. (one class period)
Theatre Ancaster’s work with students:

Theatre Ancaster is dedicated to bringing theatre to student audiences. Theatre Ancaster produces a full season of shows, featuring both adults and youth, in the Theatre Auditorium at Ancaster High School. In addition to their own season, Theatre Ancaster acts as a co-op employer for the Art Smart program, a semester long arts program that is open to all area high school students and culminates in the presentation of a full Broadway musical each year at Hill Park Secondary School.

Theatre Ancaster also schedules numerous matinee performances of their Main Stage, Art Smart, and Jr. Broadway shows for elementary and high school audiences. More than 8,000 students are introduced to quality theatre through these performances each year.
Krista Cranston - Director

Krista has spent the past eight years expanding Theatre Ancaster’s Stage2 programs, which focus on musical theatre development in children ages seven to fifteen. In addition to running Theatre Ancaster’s summer camp programs, Krista has also been instrumental in developing year-round programming for the company, launching both the Skill Builders and Broadway Junior programs. Krista holds her Diploma in Musical Theatre from the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, where she studied voice, dance and acting with top industry professionals – including a semester-long Shakespeare intensive with Shakespeare in Action founder Michael Kelly. Krista also holds her Bachelor of Arts from Redeemer University, graduating with a double major in Theatre and Music. Having previously directed Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead for The Essential Players, Krista is excited to be returning to the world of Shakespeare.

Sam Frisk - Actor

Sam's work in the theatre is primarily with young people from elementary age to university students. He has worked for Theatre Ancaster's Stage 2 summer camp and as the Festival Stage Manager for the Christian High School Drama Festival. He is currently the managing director of Theatre Ancaster's Stage 3 Young Company and directs the Art Smart program that operates as a Program of Choice at Hill Park Secondary School. He brings an enthusiasm for young people's theatre and a desire to help educate students about the exciting possibilities of the stage.

Nathan Hicks - Actor

Nathan is completing his senior year at Redeemer University College where he will be graduating with a double major in Theatre and English. He has a love for the theatre which has drawn him into such productions as Four Plays for Bad Actors, Bye Bye Birdie, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Under Milkwood, and The Mikado. His passion for all things hailing from the British Isles spurred him on a three month study period in Oxford, England where he focuses on Shakespearean theatre. He has had a significant involvement with youth from volunteering/working in camps to supervising autistic clients, ages five to twenty-two.
Noah Hicks - Actor

Noah has been educating youth on the finer aspects of drama for the past five years. With a Bachelors degree in Theatre and a Masters of Education, Noah brings a unique perspective to education with the intent of creating a fun atmosphere filled with opportunities for learning. Not only an educator, Noah has honed his craft playing major roles in productions of Beauty and the Beast, South Pacific, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, and most recently was Stage Manager for Theatre Ancaster's Stage 3 Young Company production of Urinetown.

Michelle Smith - Stage Manager

Michelle started her work with Theatre Ancaster as a co-op student with the Art Smart program and Into the Woods as a lighting technician. Since then, she has acted and worked backstage in a number of capacities such as lighting, costuming, stage management, and technical direction in several Theatre Ancaster shows, including Country!, The Wizard of Oz, Guys and Dolls, AIDA, and Urinetown. She currently serves as the technical director for the Art Smart Program at Hill Park Secondary School. William Shakespeare is her favourite playwright and she combines her excitement for the bard with her skills as a stage manager for this production.