



DELAWARE  
SHAKESPEARE  
FESTIVAL

## Shakespeare: Then, Now, and Always

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### Overview

One scholarly professional actor from the DSF company will provide a one hour introduction to William Shakespeare and his works. This session is the perfect educational tool to introduce your class or group to Shakespeare, to a new work of the Bard, or to prepare them for a trip to a DSF performance.

### Agenda

*Shakespeare: Then, Now, and Always* is broken down into the following sections:

- **Introduction:** A brief overview of who Shakespeare was, why he is important and what we will discover today. Some of the words that Shakespeare invented will be introduced. Participants will be asked what their thoughts of Shakespeare and his language are.
- **Speaking the Scene:** The scene the group will be analyzing is read aloud.
- **Name Calling:** Participants interact using a list of Elizabethan insults from Shakespeare's plays. Harmless by today's standards, these phrases were considered quite brazen in Shakespeare's day. The lesson learned is that content is separate from language, and the emotion of the words can be portrayed even if the words themselves do not make sense.
- **The Pace of the Text:** By examining the language and punctuation, combining with the rhythm, participants will be able to infer the tone and motivation for the characters. The lesson is that the text itself can provide evidence and clues to the subtext and intended portrayal of the scene.
- **Creating the Scene:** The group has an opportunity to take advantage of these new keys to understanding Shakespeare. Broken up into smaller teams, each is assigned a series of lines to break down and discover the meaning and relevance in their own lives. Each group has the opportunity to perform the lines and see the words come to life as they speak them.
- **Feedback:** A question and answer session to discuss the scene work the group just saw and performed.