

Manhattan Shakespeare Project

Manhattan's All-Female Shakespeare Company

Bring Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* to YOUR location!

February 28th - April 1st

Call NOW (646-450-8367) or send in your Booking and Reservation Form today!



THE PERFORMANCE

Manhattan Shakespeare Project - Manhattan's All-Female Shakespeare Company's mission is to bring Shakespeare to underserved communities and develop our passion for theatre not only as an art form, but also as an educational tool. The educational tour was developed to break the myth that Shakespeare is "too hard" to understand; make the play relevant to students' contemporary lives, therefore creating deep empathy into the personal relationships and situations of Shakespeare's characters. The "workshop" is intended to further students' studies in Shakespeare in an active, participatory way. The goal is to help them see that Shakespeare is

still relevant today and to help them begin to understand why we, the teaching artists at Manhattan Shakespeare Project, love it and why it is important to study it, even 400 years after his death! The hope is that we will spark their interest to the point where they want to know more.

Shakespeare wrote *The Taming of the Shrew* as a comedy; the story of the courtship of Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona, and Katherina, the headstrong, obdurate shrew. Despite all the suitors of Kate's younger sister, Bianca, their father, Baptista, has declared that Bianca cannot get married until her older sister has found a proper husband. It's a story of sibling rivalry, competition for affection, social graces and societal norms, and how strong personalities do or do not fit into those socially acceptable constructs.

Our professionally directed 60 minute performance, suitable for elementary students through adults, travels with a stage manager and a cast of 4 seasoned female actors in costume, with set and props.

A 45 minute WORKSHOP for students who want to dig deeper into *The Taming of the Shrew*, and get some hands-on experience with acting, is also available before your show; immediately before your show if you have the time and space, or on a separate day.

Elyzabeth Gorman, a physical classical director, has joined MSP this year to direct *Shrew*. Her background in movement and physical theatre has drawn her to incorporate elements from the Italian style of theatre Commedia dell'arte, most specifically the broad physical comedy and stock characters. She has also directed *Henry IV parts I & II*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Shakespeare's Women*.

The Commedia style is also reflected in the costumes, set, and props (by accomplished designers Jessica Lustig and Czerton Lim, both of whom are on faculty at Montclair State University in New Jersey) all of which evoke the traveling "trunk"-style show of the Italian improv-comedy troupes and heighten the fast paced wit of Shakespeare's text. The talented ensemble (playing all 11 characters) has been cast not only for their acting skills but also for their physical training and ability to deliver Shakespeare's language in a clear and articulate fashion. The script (edited for length) includes all major plot points and well-known speeches.

Manhattan Shakespeare Project looks forward to bringing this thought provoking tale to life at YOUR location!

For More Information:

If you are interested in having MSP's exciting production visit your school, call (646) 450-8367 or e-mail education@manhattanshakes.org, or fax your booking form for *The Taming of the Shrew* now to (650) 264-3973 to bring the magic of live theater and the beauty of Shakespeare's writing to YOUR location!

535 W. 113th St. #1
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THE WORKSHOP

A (pre-show) 45 min interactive experience with the cast of *The Taming of the Shrew* that will deepen your students' appreciation of Manhattan Shakespeare Project's educational tour! Engaging and enriching materials and activities have been developed by MSP's founding Artistic Director Sarah Eismann, a former Teaching Artist in Residence with the California school system. Materials are appropriate for all grades K-12; specific exercises and content vary by grade level. The teaching artists are trained professionals with comprehensive backgrounds in Shakespeare and performance.



The workshop illuminates and underscores the concepts of drama, language, and Shakespeare presented in our touring production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. This participatory workshop includes games, activities and text work designed to create a greater understanding and appreciation of theater and language!

Overall Outcomes: Students begin to make personal connections between their lives and the lives of the characters, learn about Shakespeare the playwright, and more specifically his play *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Grades K-2 - Character Playtime introduces young students to Shakespeare the playwright, and specifically the characters and story of *The Taming of the Shrew*. They are actively engaged as they "try on" each character to help create a synopsis of the story. The outcome is they have an understanding of the play and therefore are actively engaged as they watch the performance.

Grades 3-5 - Playing with Words expands students' knowledge of Shakespeare and his plays, and introduces them to how Shakespeare used language to create images and characters, specifically using insults from *The Taming of the Shrew*. The outcome is they have a deeper understanding of the play and characters and therefore are actively engaged as they watch the performance.



Grades 6-12 - Personalizing the Play deepens students' knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare's time and how his themes are universal and still very relevant to contemporary (the students') lives. The outcome is they begin to think about and discuss how the treatment of women has changed in the modern world and how it has not changed.

Contact us NOW to include the WORKSHOP with your Manhattan Shakespeare Project performance!

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Our professionally-directed 60 minute performance features a cast of four professional actors (playing multiple roles) and a stage manager. Our touring production travels with costumes, set, and props. At the conclusion of each performance the cast will also stay for a Q & A session with the audience!

Staging Requirements

- 20 X 25 foot performance space is ideal
- Minimum **30 mins** set-up and tear-down time before and after performance (no extra time is needed before or after workshop)

Flexible indoor or outdoor performance options! Show may take place in gym, classroom, auditorium, theater, or other spaces.

Pricing

The mission of the educational tour is to reach as many students and as large an audience as possible. So no matter what the financial situation of your school or organization, we will work with you to bring the tour to your facility.

Pricing for the educational tour works on a sliding scale depending on the type of school or organization.

With no financial aid, one show (which includes one performance and one workshop) is \$350 (\$150 for each additional show).

MSP has received some funding from private sponsors which allows us to offer performances and workshops at a reduced rate to certain schools. So please make sure to include information about your school and funding situation.

We do ask that those schools and organizations that have the funding that would allow them to bring Manhattan Shakespeare Project's educational tour to their facility to please pay what they are able. Our private sponsorship is limited and we would like to stretch it as far as possible to reach as many schools and organizations and students as possible, so even if you can afford \$50 or \$100, that would be significant.

Please make sure to talk to your MSP tour coordinator!

Tour dates book quickly. Call NOW (646-450-8367) or e-mail education@manhattanshakes.org, or fax (650-264-3973) your Booking and Reservation Form NOW to bring this outstanding curriculum enrichment program to your location!



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BOOKING AND RESERVATION FORM: *Taming of the Shrew* 2011 February 28th - April 1st

NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____ EMAIL _____

YES! I'd like to reserve _____ performance(s) of *Taming of the Shrew*.

YES! I'd also like to include _____ workshops to accompany *Taming of the Shrew*.

Here are the 3 date and time of day ranges when we prefer the performance:
Example: "week of October 17, afternoons only" or "Tuesday mornings in November, 8-9 am"

RANGE #1 _____

RANGE #2 _____

RANGE #3 _____

GET THE PROCESS STARTED AND RETURN THE SIGNED FORM TODAY!

If you later decide not to have the show, do not assume that if you have not been contacted that the show is canceled; **please call us**. To complete this booking reservation, please sign and date below:

Authorized Signature

Date

Special Request: Please help us reach the correct person by filling in the appropriate name and contact information at the top of the form and **e-mail, mail or fax it back today, even if you're not able to book a show at this time**. Better yet, pass this along to the person that we should be contacting and ask them to call or send us the corrections.

Thank You!

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