



The Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company High School Residency Program

This document describes the history of the high school residency program as well as outlining the schedule and budget for the 2012 residency.

The Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company is Michigan's only year-round, touring, professional Shakespeare Company. During its 2009 season, Pigeon Creek instituted an educational program which is unique not only in West Michigan, but in the country.

In partnership with Wayland Union High School in Wayland, Michigan, Pigeon Creek conducted a high school residency in which the company's professional actors and teaching artists rehearsed and performed alongside 5 high school actors, and one recent alumna actor from Wayland Union. The professional actors conducted workshops in Wayland Union drama classes, conducted an audition for high school actors, provided intensive workshop training to the cast, and rehearsed and performed Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* with the students playing major roles in the production. In 2010, the company conducted another residency at Rogers High School in Wyoming, Michigan, rehearsing and performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In the fall of 2012, Pigeon Creek will be in residence for 6 weeks at Kelloggsville High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan for a production of *The Comedy of Errors*.

This kind of residency explores the practice of apprenticeship and mentoring which was the major form of actor training during Shakespeare's own lifetime. Actors began their training in their pre-teen years, shadowing and performing with older, more experienced actors. Pigeon Creek's high school residency seeks to provide this same hands on training and education through experience to the Shakespearean actors of the future. The residency program also offers benefits to students who do not have previous acting experience. Learning to analyze Shakespearean language greatly increases students' reading comprehension and language skills. Live performance improves students' confidence and public speaking skills. The experience of rehearsing and performing a play teaches students time management, self-discipline, teamwork, and cooperation.

During the residency, student actors learn techniques for speaking Shakespeare's language, fundamental acting skills, physical theatre styles, proper vocal technique, and the work ethic required to be a professional theatre artist. Along with the 15-20 students who act in the residency play production, Pigeon Creek's project reaches a large portion of each school's student body with performances of the play, for which English teachers offer extra credit. Pigeon Creek's actors also visit all classes in which students study Shakespeare, performing scenes and discussing Shakespeare's language and the history of Shakespearean theatre. A portion of the ticket revenue from the performances of the residency play directly benefits the participating school's theatre program.

To learn more about the 2009 Residency at Wayland Union High School, visit <http://www.marandatv.com/2009/10/10/where-you-live-october-10-2009/> for a feature on WOOD-TV8 in Grand Rapids. Testimonials from Rebecca Black, teacher of English and Drama

at Wayland Union High School, and Kassandra Dill, a student actor in the 2009 residency, are below.

Upon auditioning for the apprenticeship with PCSC, I had no prior knowledge of Shakespeare. I always got fairly decent grades and scores on big tests in the English department, so I figured I was set as far as my education in English. But I was so wrong. I have never learned more than I did when I was an apprentice for Pigeon Creek. I highly recommend students, especially underclassmen, to participate in this opportunity. I was fortunate enough to join this program at a young age, the summer before my sophomore year. After working with Pigeon Creek for a majority of the summer I had furthered my knowledge in Shakespeare, thus broadening my ability to understand and interpret any type of English language and/or text. If you can interpret and paraphrase Shakespeare, any other old text or stories will be much, much easier to read. Learning about Shakespeare and practicing it along with many different ways to interpret lines, I not only furthered my ability to read but also my ability to act. I love both very much and Pigeon Creek taught me more than school ever has. They give you personal attention, too, which helped so much. I am so grateful for Pigeon Creek, they taught me so much.

--Kassandra Dill

As an instructor of students involved in PCS apprentice program I was impressed by the professional conduct of the ensemble. They served as good examples and positive mentors to my students. I feel that the high school residency program is a valuable experience for students both personally and academically. The hands-on approach paired with the historical connections to the process is an educational home run! The added excitement of public performance heightens the experience to its best potential! All of my students responded very positively to the program!

--Rebecca Black

Schedule of 2012 Residency Activities at Kelloggsville High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan

May 2012 -- Pigeon Creek teaching artists conduct 2 days of after school workshops on Shakespearean acting to introduce Kelloggsville students to plans for the fall residency and to help students prepare for auditions.

September 2012 -- Pigeon Creek teaching artists conduct auditions for 15-20 student actors to participate in production of *The Comedy of Errors*.

October-November 2012 -- Pigeon Creek teaching artists conduct a 6-week rehearsal period at Kelloggsville High School to prepare student actors for performances of *The Comedy of Errors*. During this time, Pigeon Creek's actors also visit all Kelloggsville English classes in which students study Shakespeare's plays.

November 9 and 10 -- Pigeon Creek teaching artists and student cast members perform *The Comedy of Errors* at Kelloggsville High School.

November 15-18 -- Pigeon Creek teaching artists and student cast members perform *The Comedy of Errors* at Dog Story Theater in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Budget for 2012 High School Residency

Personnel

Stipends for 5 Teaching Artists (5@ \$500)	\$2500
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Total	\$2500
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Publicity Materials

Poster Printing	\$358
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Postcard Printing	\$204
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Advertising in Local Arts and Entertainment Monthlies	\$460
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Total	\$1022
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Rehearsal Materials

Script Printing	\$250
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Total	\$250
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Production Costs

Costume Materials	\$625
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Costume Maintenance	\$200
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Props	\$200
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Set Construction Materials	\$300
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Total	\$1325
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Touring Costs

Gas Allowances for Teaching Artists (5 @ \$50)	\$250
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Rental of Dog Story Theater space	\$300
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Total	\$550
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Grand Total: \$5647