

## Shakesperience: NJ 2026

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The *Shakesperience: NJ* Festival is an important educational program of The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. We are committed to providing a range of resources and opportunities to both students and teachers that will assist and inspire them to both study and enjoy Shakespeare's plays.

#### The Festival...

- ...provides a structure to promote learning through performance.
- ...is designed so that the students are each other's audience.
  - Watching several other scenes is as educational as performing one's own. Students will come away with an idea of the range and texture of Shakespeare's work, and the manifold ways in which it can be interpreted.
- ...intends to bring students of all backgrounds and experiences into a shared space. The world is an exciting and diverse place. We need to meet each other!
- ...is FUN!
  - Festival commentators will award prizes for excellence of every kind, and each student will go home with a tangible token of the day they trod the boards, backstage or onstage. We want the students to have a good time, a great time, and maybe the time of their lives.
- ...is not a competition. We are all educators who share with you the goal of learning more about Shakespeare and celebrating the spirit of human creativity as we enjoy the students' accomplishments.