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SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY RECEIVES 2009-2010 SHAKESPEARE FOR A NEW GENERATION GRANT FROM NEA AND ARTS MIDWEST

Washington, D.C. – The Shakespeare Theatre Company is one of 37 theatre companies to receive a \$25,000 grant for participating in *Shakespeare for a New Generation*, a national initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest. This initiative targets middle and high school students, introducing young people to the power of live theatre and the masterpieces of William Shakespeare. Managed by Arts Midwest, the program already has benefited more than one million students and their teachers with live performances and educational activities.

This grant will help support STC's 2009-2010 SHAKESPEARIENCE Student Matinee Program, which continues to grow every year. This season's program kicks off with two performances of *As You Like It* on December 1 and 9, 2009. Both of these sold-out performances will bring students from across the D.C. metro area to the Shakespeare Theatre Company, such as Herbert Hoover Middle School of Montgomery County, Md., which is bringing its entire eighth grade class. Education staff and teaching artists will also teach 24 pre-performance workshops to participating schools, which is double the amount from the 2007-2008 season.

"Shakespeare for a New Generation not only enriches the educational experience by bringing live theatre performances to new and young audiences – some of whom may grow up to have a career in theatre – but it also provides employment for today's theatre artists," said former NEA Acting Chairman Patrice Walker Powell.

Including the newly selected companies, more than 80 of the nation's theatre companies have taken part in the NEA's Shakespeare program since its inception. By June 2009, participating theatre companies had presented performances at 3,600 schools in 2,300 communities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Please visit www.arts.gov for a complete list of the 2009-2010 *Shakespeare for a New Generation* grantees.

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