

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY TO RECEIVE  
2010 – 2011 SHAKESPEARE FOR A NEW GENERATION GRANT**

**Washington, D.C.** – The Shakespeare Theatre Company today announced that it is one of 40 nonprofit, professional theatre companies that will receive a grant of \$25,000 to participate in *Shakespeare for a New Generation* from June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011. Part of the NEA's *Shakespeare in American Communities* initiative, *Shakespeare for a New Generation* introduces middle and high school students to the power of live theatre and the masterpieces of William Shakespeare. Managed by Arts Midwest, the program has benefitted more than 1.5 million students and their teachers with live performances and educational activities since the program began in 2003.

This grant will help support STC's 2010 – 2011 SHAKESPEARIENCE Student Matinee Program, which served 2,856 local area students during the 2009 – 2010 season. The 2010 – 2011 SHAKESPEARIENCE Student Matinee Program will feature performances of *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Cymbeline*. "We are so fortunate to receive this funding to bring Shakespeare into the classrooms of 3,700 students in the DC Metro area. For many of our participants, our productions are the first professional theatre experience they have had and it wouldn't be possible without the generosity of the NEA" says Community Access Programs Manager, Marcy Spiro, who manages SHAKESPEARIENCE.

"We are proud to support bringing Shakespeare to America's students," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "I have seen firsthand how the productions supported through *Shakespeare for a New Generation* have connected youth with Shakespeare – sometimes for the first time – inspiring them and creating the next generation of audiences. At the same time, this funding increases work opportunities for our theater artists."

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 2010, participating theater companies will have presented performances at 4,000 schools in 2,500 communities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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