



Classic Stage Company

Shakespeare Smackdown (SHAKE SMACK!)

2017 Handbook for Participating Schools

WHAT IS THE SHAKE SMACK? This NO FEE event offers THE CHANCE FOR YOUR STUDENTS TO PERFORM ON CSC'S STAGE! Participating schools will send groups to represent them with selected short scenes from this year's YOUNG COMPANY show, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS. No two groups will present the same scene, and the scenes will be performed in the order that they appear in the play. The effect will be a collaborative, student-driven, mini-production of the play. Students will be recognized for their efforts with various awards, including tickets to future shows at CSC, free workshops for their classes, and more!

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE? Any student who participated in the 2016/2017 YOUNG COMPANY season (workshops and/or performances).

WHERE AND WHEN WILL IT TAKE PLACE? Classic Stage Company, Monday, May 8, 2017. Mandatory rehearsal 4pm-6pm; Performance at 7pm.

WE WANT TO ENTER! If you would like to participate, please see the "Next Steps for Teachers" section below and follow the instructions.

MORE INFO: If you have questions, contact Kathleen Dorman, Director of Education, at kathleen.dorman@classicstage.org or 212-677-4210 x21.

Next Steps for Teachers:

- Read the REQUIREMENTS, GUIDELINES, AND LOGISTICS carefully (pages 2-3).
- Fill out a GROUP ENTRY FORM for each of the participating groups (see link on page 3).
- **DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017.**
- Lead teachers will receive group scene assignments on Friday, April 7 so that they may distribute them to students prior to Spring Recess. Groups may then begin to rehearse (see REHEARSAL GUIDELINES on page 2).



REQUIREMENTS, GUIDELINES, AND LOGISTICS

Please read carefully, then click the link to the online form to enter groups from your school into the SHAKE SMACK.

Participation Requirements

- Students must be in grades 6-12 and must have participated in the 2016/2017 Young Company season (workshops and/or performances).
- All participants must be available for the mandatory rehearsal on the date of the event (Monday May 8, from 4-6pm) as well as the event itself (Monday May 8, beginning at 7pm and running approximately 2.5 hours).
- At least one teacher per school will be required to attend both the rehearsal and the event along with the participating students; this teacher should be designated as the “lead teacher” on the GROUP ENTRY form.
- Individual schools may enter one group per participating class; this does not mean that the groups must come from those individual classes, but rather that if there were three classes at a school that participated in the 2016/2017 Young Company season, the school may enter three groups. (Should you have interested students in excess of this amount, please inquire as to whether we have space to accommodate additional groups from your school.)
- Groups may consist of a minimum of two students and a maximum of five students.

Rehearsal Guidelines

- **JUDGING CRITERIA:** Groups will be judged based on the following criteria (for more details, please see the SCORING RUBRIC on page 4):
 - Text Comprehension
 - Character Development
 - Vocal Clarity
 - Physical Expression
 - Performance Ownership
 - Professional Conduct
- **SCENE ASSIGNMENTS:** CSC will assign scenes from THE COMEDY OF ERRORS. Requests can be made and will be taken into consideration but are not guaranteed. All scenes are under 5 minutes in length.
- **MEMORIZATION:** Students should be “off-book” (lines fully memorized) when performing at the event. CSC will provide a prompter in the event that a student forgets a line, but note that use of the prompter will result in a deduction of points from the judging criteria, “Professional Conduct”.
- **PROPS:** Use of props is allowed, but ONLY those props that CSC provides. Groups are NOT PERMITTED to bring in outside props. CSC will provide a list of



the provided props along with your scene assignments. All props will be basic household items so that groups should be able to find and rehearse with similar materials on their own.

- **COSTUMES:** Use of costumes is not permitted; however, students may choose to incorporate various stock prop items as costume pieces (see more under PROPS). Participating students should plan to wear basic black or other dark colors for the event. CSC will provide colored badges that indicate which character each student is portraying. This feature is mainly to assist the audience in following the plot. Students will receive their badges upon arrival at the mandatory rehearsal.

Event Logistics

- **MANDATORY REHEARSAL:** All participants **MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE** for the mandatory rehearsal on the date of the event, Monday May 8, from 4pm-6pm. The point of this rehearsal will be to orient groups to the space and the logistics of the event. We will practice transitioning between scenes but we will not run the scenes themselves. From 6pm-7pm groups will break for dinner on their own in the neighborhood.
- **SEATING:** All participants will be assigned seats based on when their group is performing, and groups will be expected to remain in the audience until they are "on deck" (next to perform).
- **TICKETS:** Each school will receive A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS to disperse however they like to supporters (friends, family, additional faculty, etc.) These tickets are free of charge. CSC will provide more info concerning the exact number of tickets available closer to the event.
- **WINNERS:** After all scenes have been presented, we will take a short break while the judges tally the results. Winners will be announced at the close of the event and prizes will be presented at that time.
- **SPECIAL GUESTS:** Since the students will be on stage this time around, the cast of the Young Company's production of THE COMEDY OF ERRORS will be in the audience, creating a unique and memorable experience for all involved. Students will be able to interact with cast members over the course of the evening.

Click on the link below to enter your students!

[CSC – SHAKE SMACK! – 2017 Group Entry Form](#)



Classic Stage Company's Shakespeare Smackdown (SHAKE SMACK!) Scoring Rubric

	1	2	3	4
TEXT COMPREHENSION	* Misunderstands the scene and its context in the play. * Does not utilize rhetorical devices or poetic meter.	* Shows a general understanding of the scene and its context in the play. * Utilizes some rhetorical devices and poetic meter.	* Shows a clear understanding of the scene and its context in the play. * Clearly utilizes rhetorical devices and poetic meter.	* Shows a detailed and sophisticated understanding of the scene and its context in the play. * Makes exceptional use of rhetorical devices and poetic meter.
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT	* Misunderstands character point of view, status, and emotion.	* Understands some aspects of character point of view, status, and emotion.	* Gives an accurate portrayal of character point of view, status, and emotion.	* Gives a detailed and sophisticated portrayal of character point of view, status, and emotion.
VOCAL CLARITY	* Unclearly spoken at an ineffective volume and pace.	* Spoken somewhat clearly with moments of effective volume and pacing.	* Clearly spoken at an effective volume and pace.	* Clearly and naturally spoken at an effective volume and pace.
PHYSICAL EXPRESSION	* Unclear movement choices and interactions amongst characters. * Ineffective use of space.	* Somewhat clear movement choices and interactions amongst characters. * Moments of effective use of space.	* Clear movement choices and interactions amongst characters. * Effective use of space.	* Clear and natural movement choices and interactions amongst characters. * Effective and innovative use of space.
PERFORMANCE OWNERSHIP	* Lacks confidence or poise, lacks energy, not fully in character, does not engage the audience.	* Minimal confidence or poise, low energy, mostly in character, somewhat engages the audience.	* Confident and poised, has energy, fully in character, engages the audience.	* Impressive confidence and poise, energy used skillfully, fully and believably in character, captivates the audience.
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT	* Lines not memorized, disrespectful audience members, does not follow backstage protocol.	* Lines mostly memorized, mostly respectful audience members, mostly follows backstage protocol.	* Lines memorized, respectful audience members, follows backstage protocol.	* Lines fully memorized, respectful and supportive audience members, fully follows backstage protocol.