

## PRESS RELEASE

# **SUMMER SHAKESPEARE THEATRE TO PERFORM HENRY V**

Summer Shakespeare Theatre, a program of the Fox Valley Summer School Consortium will present one of the Bard's most powerful and intriguing works, HENRY V, July 24-28 in the Appleton North High School auditorium, 5000 North Ballard Road. A cast and crew of 50 students from several area high schools spend six weeks learning about Shakespeare and the theatre of the Renaissance while preparing a play for public performance. Appleton North High School theatre instructor, Ron Parker, moved the program to the Fox Valley 14 years ago after founding and directing the program in Kenosha. "For more than a quarter of a century Summer Shakespeare Theatre has been a wonderful opportunity for students from different schools who are interested in theatre to study and perform the work of the greatest playwright in the English language. In addition, students from various schools have a chance to meet and work together on a common project. This is a program unique in the country, and its continued success is truly due to the dedication and enthusiasm the many hundreds of students who have been part of it over the years. Their love of Shakespeare and belief in the program have made this Summer Shakespeare possible and will continue to make it possible for many years to come."

Audiences who attend this summer's performances of HENRY V will be treated to elaborate costumes and scenery, an original musical score created exclusively for this production by London composer Jay Chakravorty, and several special surprises. In addition, one of the student

actors will portray Shakespeare himself and will provide pre-play commentary as well as mingle with audience members during the show. An exciting feature of the performance is the seating of audience members directly on the stage in a “studio theatre” environment to create a more intimate setting for the drama and to involve the audience in the action.

One of Shakespeare’s most famous histories, HENRY V tells the story of a young, untried English king who, having inherited the throne must live down his wild adolescent past and unite his country. Claiming better lineage to the French crown than Charles, King of France, Henry rallies his people and invades the confident neighboring country. Surrounded and drastically outnumbered by the French army, finding his soldiers sick and wound-weary, Henry learns what it is to be a king and realizes the most stunning victory of all: the capacity of the human spirit to overcome any obstacle. What happens in the end is nothing short of a miracle... Featuring some of Shakespeare’s most rousing and exciting speeches, HENRY V is a gripping story of leadership, brotherhood, and self discovery.

Performance times are 7:00 P.M. on July 24<sup>th</sup> , 25<sup>th</sup> , 26<sup>th</sup> , and 27<sup>th</sup> and 1:00 P.M. on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> . Admission is \$8.00 and seating is limited to 130 per performance. Tickets can be purchased at the North High School main office between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. and at the door. All seats are general admission.

For further information, contact Ron Parker, director at 707-0487 or by e-mail, [parkerronaldc@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:parkerronaldc@asds.k12.wi.us) .