

The Boise Bard Players

PO Box 8723
Boise, ID 83708
(208) 957-9650

The Boise Bard Players Presents: Shakespeare Live! in Meridian

13th August 2026

PROPOSAL STATEMENT

The Boise Bard Players (BBP) proposes to bring 8-10 in-class workshops and 1-2 performance camps, culminating in a free public performance, both centered on Shakespeare, to Meridian Schools in the 2026/27 school year. To achieve this, BBP is requesting \$5000 from the Meridian Arts Commission.

OVERVIEW

Shakespeare Live! is an educational outreach program run by The Boise Bard Players (BBP). We are a nonprofit, mobile theatre company making Shakespeare and other classics affordable and accessible to the Treasure Valley and beyond. Shakespeare Live! provides fun and essential theater education and training to K-12 students by sending two teaching artists into classrooms to provide hour-long educational workshops and/or week-long educational camps. These camps and workshops are geared toward teaching fundamental Shakespearean acting technique in addition to foundational acting technique. This proposal aims to bring 8-10 hour-long in-class workshops and 1-2 week-long camps to Meridian schools, culminating in a 10-15 minute public performance at a Meridian park. BBP will handle all school outreach and correspondence.



GOALS

1. To provide students with a basic foundation to perform Shakespeare's language and further develop their public speaking and communication skills.
2. To equip students with tools and techniques to put on a 10-15 minute performance that will deepen their collaborative and teamwork abilities.
3. To give young artists a space to explore creatively as well as foster individuality and personal confidence.

SPECIFICATIONS

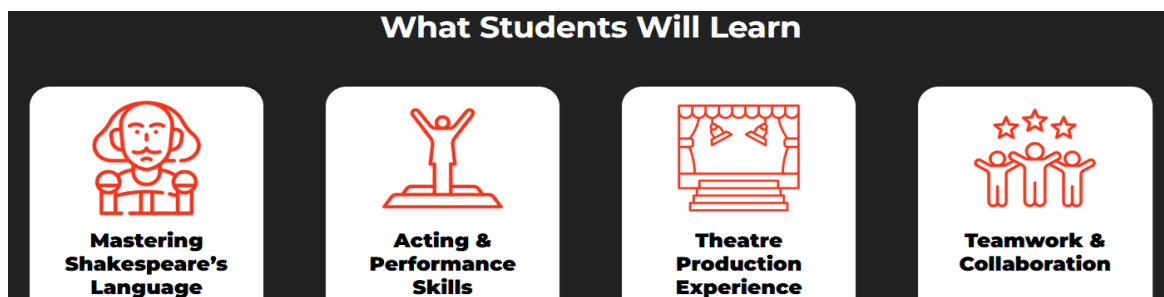
Shakespeare Live! brings two professional theatre artists into the classroom to teach students foundational Shakespeare techniques such as:

- Warming up their voice and body
- Breaking down monologues and scenes for clarity
- Utilizing iambic pentameter to understand the rhythm of the poetry
- Crafting specific characters
- Discussing story structure
- And other various performance-based abilities

In the hour-long workshops, students will learn how to effectively warm up their storytelling instrument with a Shakespearean tongue twister, play a fun game based on stage directions, practice Shakespeare's text with a monologue, all while analyzing the rhythm of the text.

The week-long camp dives deeper into these concepts, in addition to learning how to create a dynamic character, memorize text, and develop Shakespearean performance techniques. Since the camp will take place at Meridian schools during school hours, students are able to more easily connect the concepts they are learning in their classrooms with the art they are creating.

BBP will handle contacting schools, arranging the logistics for all workshops and camps, as well as marketing for any public performances, which will reach over 1100 people through BBP's email list and social media network. At the end of the school year, BBP will submit a final report to MAC.



MILESTONES

Student Outreach

This program will reach 200 students across at least 10 schools within the City of Meridian. Because the program will take place within school hours, it will allow for greater student participation without requiring schools to provide extracurricular space, time, and faculty availability. Students will be able to collaborate with industry professionals to cultivate teamwork and ensemble skills, while simultaneously increasing their own self worth and individuality. Students will develop a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's stories in an accessible manner that will allow them to find contemporary connection to classic stories. The students will also have a greater sense of personal accomplishment by putting on a successful show in a short period of time.

Community Impact

By providing a free public performance, this program will benefit the community with the opportunity for the audience to witness Meridian students express themselves creatively in an entertaining performance that will demonstrate the artistic growth each student has developed over the week-long camp. This provides students and community alike with the opportunity for connection, with the individual student growth cultivated in both the camp and the workshops, contributing to the greater arts ecosystem of Meridian.

Shakespeare Live! provides an essential need in the form of arts education that many public school students are not guaranteed to receive in their week to week education. This also provides the community with an artistic and educational opportunity at no cost to the individual, greatly increasing the accessibility to arts education. We anticipate that at least 75 Meridian community members will be in attendance.

Accessibility

With funds from the Meridian Arts Commission, this program will come at no cost to the student and families. This free educational opportunity will allow students of all fiscal backgrounds to be able to attend these workshops and camps regardless of financial means. Our educators are also trained to tailor camps and workshops to suit the needs of the students. Students will be able to attend these opportunities regardless of support needs, disability, and/or background with the knowledge that our teaching artists are prepared to meet the students where they are at. We are greatly interested in taking this project into low-income schools and schools with minimal access to theater arts, to provide an essential educational need to students in need.

GENERAL TIMELINE

- September: MAC Approval of Funding
- October / November: Program Coordination and Mobilization
- December - May: Workshops
- May: Camp + Public Performance
- June: Final Report to MAC

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

TRIS BERG - INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / TEACHING ARTIST: Tris Berg is a professional theater artist who has been acting professionally for ten years, and has worked as a teaching artist for the last eight and a half. They have taught for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise Contemporary Theater, Missoula Children's Theater, and Idaho State University. They hold a Bachelor of Arts from Idaho State University.

SAM MURPHY - INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR / TEACHING ARTIST: Sam is a professional actor, director, and intimacy choreographer in the Treasure Valley! They began their professional theatre journey 10 years ago and began teaching 9 years ago. They have taught with Starlight Mountain Theater, Idaho State University, Opal Theatre Company, and Idaho Shakespeare Festival. They hold a Bachelor of Arts from Idaho State University.

DAKOTAH BROWN - TEACHING ARTIST: Dakotah is a founding member of The Boise Bard Players and is a consummate teaching artist. He has taught for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise Contemporary Theater, and Hall International Academy. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from University of California, Santa Barbara.



BUDGET PROPOSAL

This financial breakdown is specifically designed for 8-10 hour-long in-class workshops, and 1-2 week-long camps culminating in a public performance.

Item	Total Cost
Educator Cost - Workshop Stipends - (\$75 per educator x 10 workshops)	\$1500
Educator Cost - Camp Stipends - (\$375 per educator x 1 camp)	\$750
Liability Insurance Costs	\$800
Transportation	\$150
Administration Costs - (\$15/hr at estimated 80 hours)	\$1200
Marketing Costs	\$100
Workshop Materials	\$100
Props and Costumes	\$300
Miscellaneous	\$100
	\$5,000

Tristan Berg (She/They)

tristanberg@gmail.com

Education: B.A. Theatre Performance, Magna Cum Laude, Idaho State University, 2019

- Tour Actor/Director Two Week Theater Education Intensive, Missoula Children's Theatre, 2020
- Acting Apprenticeship, Lyric Repertory Company, 2018

Teaching Artist Experience:

Idaho Shakespeare Festival – School of Theater:

Adv. Shakespeare Int.	Co-Instructor	2026
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	2026
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	2026
Shakespeare Intensive I	Co-Instructor	2026
Story Theater	Co-Instructor	2026
Production Play	Co-Instructor	2026
Broadway Basics	Co-Instructor	2025
Production Play	Co-Instructor	2025
Shakespeare Intensive I	Co-Instructor	2025
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	2025
Shakespeare Intensive I	Co-Instructor	2025
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	2025
Story Theater	Co-Instructor	2025
Page to Stage	Co-Instructor	2025
Story Theater	Co-Instructor	2024
Broadway Basics	Co-Instructor	2024
Shakespeare Intensive I	Co-Instructor	2024
Camp Broadway	Co-Instructor	2024
Shakespeare Showcase	Co-Instructor	2024
Shakespeare Intensive I	Co-Instructor	2024
Camp Musical	Co-Instructor	2024
Shakespeare Showcase	Co-Instructor	2024
Shakespeare Intensive I	Co-Instructor	2023
Adv. Shakes. Intensive	Co-Instructor	2023
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	2023
Camp Musical	Teaching Assistant	2023

Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	2023
Camp Broadway	Co-Instructor	2023
Shakespeare Showcase	Lead Instructor	2022
Short Shakespeare	Teaching Assistant	2022
Camp Broadway	Co Teacher	2022
Camp Musical	Co-Teacher	2022
Short Shakespeare	Teaching Assistant	2022
Broadway Bound	Teaching Assistant	2022

Idaho Shakespeare Festival – Residencies

Introduction to Theater	Anser Charter School	2023
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Idaho Shakespeare Festival – Educational Tour

Viewpoints / Workshops	Teaching Artist	2024
Viewpoints / Workshops	Teaching Artist	2023

Boise Contemporary Theater:

Theater Lab I	Co-Teacher	2022
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Missoula Children's Theatre:

Intro to Improv x 2	Fortine Elementary	2021
Miming	Lincoln High School	2021
Intro to Improv	Lincoln High School	2021
Creative Dramatics x 3	Pine Bluffs Elementary	2021
Basics of Acting	Harrison High School	2021
Intro to Improv	Harrison High School	2021
Creative Dramatics	Harrison High School	2021
Intro to Improv	Pinedale High School	2021
Creative Dramatics x 4	Kamiah Elementary	2021
Creative Dramatics x 2	Colton Elementary	2021
Intro to Improv	Colton Elementary	2021
Basics of Acting	Colton Elementary	2021
Intro to Improv	Prairie City Elementary	2021
Basics of Acting	Prairie City Elementary	2021
Creative Dramatics	Prairie City Elementary	2021
Intro to Improv	Lee Elementary	2020
Intro to Improv	Whitebead Elementary	2020

Basics of Acting	Jackson Elementary	2020
History of Comedy	Foothills Elementary	2020
Stage Makeup	La Casita Elementary	2020
Miming	La Casita Elementary	2020
Basics of Acting	La Casita Elementary	2020
Stage Makeup x 3	Jefferson Elementary	2020
Basics of Acting x 8	Manila Elementary	2020
Intro to Improv x 2	Manila Elementary	2020
History of Comedy	Enterprise Elementary	2020

Teaching Assistant:

Stage Combat	Idaho State University	2019
Fundamentals of Acting	Idaho State University	2018
Stage Combat	Idaho State University	2017

Independent Workshops:

Advocacy Within Theater	ISF Apprenticeship	2023
Basics of Stage Combat	Pickleville Playhouse	2019
Animal Work	Redstone Theatre Co.	2019
Stage Combat	ISU One Act Festival	2019
Dialects, RP (T.A.)	ISU One Act Festival	2019
Voice and Speech	ISU One Act Festival	2018
Stage Combat (T.A.)	ISU One Act Festival	2018
Viewpoints (T.A.)	ISU One Act Festival	2018
Why ISU? (T.A.)	ISU One Act Festival	2018

Sam Murphy

murphysamanthajane@gmail.com

(208)891-3091

Training: B.A. Theatre, Film, and Video, Idaho State University, May 2018

Teaching Experience:

Idaho Shakespeare Festival - School of Theatre

Advanced Shakespeare Intensive	Co-Instructor	July 2026
Beginning Shakespeare Intensive	Co-Instructor	June 2026
Production Play	Co-Instructor	April 2026
Production Play	Co-Instructor	November 2025
Story Theatre	Co-Instructor	November 2025
Camp Musical	Co-Instructor	July 2025
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	July 2025
Beginning Shakespeare Intensive	Co-Instructor	July 2025
Beginning Shakespeare Intensive	Co-Instructor	June 2025
Camp Broadway	Co-Instructor	June 2025
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	June 2025
Story Theatre	Co-Instructor	April 2025
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	July 2024
Camp Musical	Co-Instructor	July 2024
Beginning Shakespeare Intensive	Co-Instructor	July 2024
Beginning Shakespeare Intensive	Co-Instructor	June 2024
Boundary Workshop	Co-Instructor	June 2024
Theater Basics	Co-Instructor	Sept-Nov 2023
Advanced Shakespeare Intensive	Co-Instructor	June 2023
Camp Broadway	Lead Instructor	June 2023
Beginning Shakespeare Intensive	Co-Instructor	July 2023
Short Shakespeare	Co-Instructor	July 2023
Camp Musical	Lead Instructor	July 2023
Boundary Workshop	Co-Instructor	July 2023

Idaho Shakespeare Festival - Shakesperience Tour

Elementary School Workshops	Teaching Artist	Jan-April 2024
High School Workshops	Teaching Artist	Feb-April 2023

Opal Theatre Company - Workshop Series

Acting	Lead Instructor	August 2021
Directing	Lead Instructor	August 2021
Intimacy Choreography	Lead Instructor	August 2021

Idaho State - One Act Festival

Comedy	Co-Instructor	April 2018
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Starlight Mountain Theatre - Educational Summer Camp

"Kid's Camp"	Cordinator	July 2018
"Kid's Camp" (Ages 6-8)	Lead Instructor	July 2017

Alemeda Middle School - After School Program

Drama	Co-Instructor	Oct-Dec 2014
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Special Skills

Intimacy Choreography	Directing	Makeup
Dance Choreography	Unarmed Combat	Costume Design