



The Young Shakespeareans

OUR MISSION

EARLY EXPOSURE + ELEVATED EXPECTATION = EMPOWERMENT

The Young Shakespeareans program empowers ESL children in underserved neighborhoods in South Los Angeles through partnerships with its public schools. We throw down the gauntlet and raise the bar high, inspiring 4th through 8th graders to challenge themselves to reach beyond what they ever imagined possible.

We expect a lot and the students deliver. Through the demand of reading, understanding, producing, and performing a Shakespearean play, we provide an opportunity for "academics in action" that is powerful, exciting, and formative.

Our students develop skills and methods to reliably and repeatedly access them. They expand their literacy, self-presentation, and technical competence. They gain self-awareness and self-confidence through intense commitment, discipline, and teamwork. And they cherish the strength, pride, and respect derived from giving high-quality theatrical performances for their schools and their broader communities.

The Young Shakespeareans end their school year amazed and inspired by what they have achieved. This feeling of empowerment and success promotes courage and leadership and, once experienced, is never forgotten. Our students embrace and move forward in their lives with our motto deeply embedded in their psyches:

“IF I CAN DO SHAKESPEARE, I CAN DO ANYTHING!”

Program Overview

TYS partners with LAUSD Title One elementary and middle schools to serve the goals and objectives of each school's culture. Each participating school has a team of involved educators consisting of the Principal, a Liaison Teacher, Classroom/Book Club Teacher, and **TYS** Artistic/Program Director and Teaching Artist(s). Initiated in 2008, the program has evolved and presently operates in three LAUSD schools, each representing different models for school, curriculum, and community integration.

In Fall, **TYS** provides Teaching Guides for the selected play to support the Classroom Teacher in familiarizing the students with its plot, characters, and themes. In Spring, **TYS** Teaching Artists lead students in a twelve-week program of carefully developed curriculum which marries challenging academic exercises with those designed to cultivate empowering and transferable life-skills. The program culminates in multiple student performances of and abridged Shakespearean play with very high-production values, delivered in the original Elizabethan text for the school body, its families and extended communities.

2018-2019 was a banner year for **TYS**, but 2020 is particularly exciting in that we have expanded our program to include a full production design component serving additional children with differing skill sets and interests. Additionally, at the insistence of alumni from several of our partner elementary schools, we are launching our program in middle school.

“If I Can Do Shakespeare, I Can Do Anything!”

theyoungshakespeareans.com