LILY MCKEE HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Application materials are online and may be downloaded at www.folger.edu/fellowship.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Between September 14 and December 7, 2015, up to sixteen high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors will have the opportunity to explore Shakespeare’s plays as scholars, actors, and audience members through Folger Shakespeare Library’s Lily McKee High School Fellowship Program. This program is a one-semester interdisciplinary series of seminars and workshops that investigates a wide range of approaches and theories to the study of Shakespeare. Students in the Fall 2015 fellowship will study *Pericles*, a comedy, Shakespeare’s sonnets, and other selected texts.

McKee Fellows will meet every Monday (excluding Columbus Day) from 3:45pm-6:00pm to examine these works from several perspectives. They will have occasional special sessions on Wednesday afternoons or weekends. They will study printing history, stage history, and language. They will have the opportunity to meet scholars, directors, actors, conservators, and other experts. The Fellows will tour Folger Shakespeare Library, and they will attend live performances.

ACADEMIC SEMINARS: A team of distinguished humanities scholars will lead sessions on the plays and poems and on the social and historical contexts in which they were written. Emphasis will be placed on performance as textual interpretation. On Mondays, students will gather for a 15-minute home-room period before a 2-hour seminar session. Each scholar or session leader chooses his or her own style of presentation, but all sessions include intensive discussion, in which all students are expected to take an active part.

PRACTICAL THEATRE EDUCATION: Students will also be exposed to working theatre practitioners: actors, directors, and designers. Sessions that focus on theatre—performances, acting, design, and film sessions—take place throughout the semester, occasionally on weekends.

HEAD TEACHER: Corinne Viglietta, Assistant Director of Education, will oversee the program—managing assignments, evaluating student papers, writing reports to the students’ schools—and be available for help of any kind.

SCHOLARS: Past Fellowship Program scholars include: Maynard Mack, Jr., Professor of English, University of Maryland, College Park; Stephen Booth, Professor of English Literature, University of California at Berkeley; Barbara Mowat, Senior Editor of Folger editions of the plays, Folger Shakespeare Library; Tad Howard, Associate Dean, Georgetown University; Gail Kern Paster, Scholar and Former Director, Folger Shakespeare Library; and Michael Witmore, Director, Folger Shakespeare Library.

THEATRE ARTISTS: Past Fellowship Program theatre artists include: Michael Tolaydo, Professor of Drama, St. Mary’s College; Caleen Sinnette Jennings, Professor of Theatre, American University; Lorraine Ressegger, Fight Choreographer; Eleanor Holdridge, Professor of
Theatre, The Catholic University of America; Marcus Kyd, Actor/Director; and Kate Turner-Walker, Costume Designer.

**READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:** Students will be asked to read plays and related material each week. The students will complete a series of papers as well as a final research project. Students will also work together to present a final acting project at the end of the program.

**ACADEMIC CREDIT:** Folger Shakespeare Library is not a credit-granting institution, but the students’ schools can choose to give course credit in English, theatre, or independent study. Students who do not receive credit for the course are still expected to meet all the requirements—attendance, reading, and writing assignments. Whether or not credit is granted, the school should note participation in the Lily McKee High School Fellowship Program on the student’s transcript.

**SPONSORING TEACHER:** Each McKee Fellow will be asked to designate someone at his or her school as the “Sponsoring Teacher.” The student is expected to report informally to this teacher at mutually agreed upon intervals during the semester. Sponsoring Teachers are invited to some of the fellowship sessions over the course of the semester.

**ELIGIBILITY:** High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from public, parochial, and independent high schools in the Washington, DC region are all eligible. Applicants should have a strong interest in literature, history, or drama in general and Shakespeare in particular. They must be ready for the challenge of this intensive and exciting program and willing to commit the necessary time to it. All interested students are encouraged to apply. Previous knowledge of Shakespeare is not necessary.

**FINANCIAL AID:** All students accepted for the Lily McKee High School Fellowship Program are awarded full scholarships, which include necessary texts and tickets to all performances. A few supplementary stipends may be available for qualified students who are eager to participate but for whom transportation costs would be a hardship.

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:** Participants will be selected on the basis of their answers to application questions, especially an essay describing their reasons for wanting to participate in the program, and on the recommendations from two teachers, one of whom should be an English teacher. Students may also be asked to complete a brief interview. We will select the 16 applicants who we believe will have the most to contribute to the seminar and derive the most from it. We expect that each student will bring different strengths to the program.

*We are eager to assemble a group of students genuinely interested in working with people from a wide variety of educational and cultural backgrounds in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Folger Shakespeare Library is dedicated to excellence and equal access to that excellence.*

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