



## SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Shakespeare Festival and Maryville University Honor Local Educator**  
*Doug Erwin is named Maryville University Educator of the Year*

ST. LOUIS (June 20, 2017) – Dr. Doug Erwin, Fine Arts Coordinator for the Ferguson Florissant School District and theater teacher at McCluer High School, has been selected as the Maryville University Educator of the Year, it was announced today by Rick Dildine, artistic and executive director of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis and Mascheal Schappe, Dean of Maryville School of Education. This is the fourth year Maryville University has sponsored the award, though the Festival has recognized an outstanding teacher of Shakespeare since 2012.

Erwin will be recognized during the pre-show Festival activities on Fri., June 23, “Education Night,” at Shakespeare Glen in Forest Park. Finalists Chris Stout of Parkway Central High School and Alexis Micic of Chesterfield Day School will also be acknowledged.

“The Festival’s In the Schools program provides a critical link to the Bard’s works and today’s students, as the themes in these plays from 400 years ago still resonate with us,” said Rick Dildine, artistic and executive director of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. “And our partnership with Maryville University allows us to recognize the accomplishments of these incredible teachers who make the arts come alive for their students and make these wonderful connections to a writer whose work is still relevant in our lives.”

Erwin has taught theatre for 26 years, the past 15 at McCluer High School in the Ferguson Florissant School District. He has also taught competitive speech, English, music, art and journalism. Erwin previously taught at Riverview Gardens School District where he was named “Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year” in 1998.

Erwin has traveled internationally with students to England, Scotland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Greece and Turkey. He was named to “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers” in 2005 and has been featured in the publication four times. In 2008 Erwin was selected as the Missouri state representative in the Japan Memorial Fulbright Program. While in Japan, Erwin was trained in the Japanese theatre

form of Karuda, the only American to have been trained in this art form. Upon his return, his students staged the musical *Pacific Overtures* and were featured by the Japan-America Society.

Erwin is also active in professional theatre in the St. Louis area and serves as a professional vocalist. In 2016 he was named “Arts Educator of the Year” by the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis. Erwin is the founder and chair of the Fine Arts Regional Consortium, a professional learning network for arts educators, and serves on the Learning Advisory Committee of EdPlus.

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis’ In the Schools Education Tour productions, workshops and study materials have a 16-year legacy of introducing the universal themes and ideas of the Bard’s plays to more than 300,000 students, and in the process, have won accolades from educators throughout the country. The Festival’s education program helps demystify Shakespeare through reading, viewing and performing his works.

Since its inception in 2001, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis has surpassed the one million mark in attendance through its work In the Schools, In the Streets and In the Park with more than 710,000 people attending the free main stage productions at Shakespeare Glen in Forest Park. In 2010, the Festival launched SHAKE 38, a marathon participatory presentation of Shakespeare’s entire 38-play canon community wide. In 2012, the Festival shut down its first street, Cherokee, to present a community-based play In the Streets. Shakespeare Festival St. Louis receives generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Missouri Arts Council, the Regional Arts Commission, and the Arts & Education Council of Greater St. Louis. In 2017, the Festival was named Arts Organization of the Year by the Missouri Arts Council. For more information, please visit [www.sfstl.com](http://www.sfstl.com) or call 314-531-9800.

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