



SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS

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Shakespeare Festival St. Louis Awarded \$50,000 by Monsanto Fund

Grant to support education tour visits to rural Missouri schools

ST. LOUIS (Feb. 27, 2015) -- Shakespeare Festival St. Louis's award-winning Education Tour brings to life the timeless characters and themes of the Bard's work for students each year throughout the St. Louis region, pairing performances with student workshops. The Monsanto Fund has granted \$50,000 to bring this year's Education Tour to thousands of students throughout rural Missouri.

The 2015 Tour features artfully adapted 50-minute productions of *Antony and Cleopatra* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The five-member touring ensemble will perform both shows in repertory throughout St. Louis including several weeks in rural Missouri through the end of April. The Festival's performances are supplemented by workshops and study materials that support the common core state standards.

"The Festival is thrilled with the continued support from the Monsanto Fund and what these funds allow us to do," said Jennifer Wintzer, the Festival's Director of Community Engagement and Education. "For many of these schools we are presenting live theater and Shakespeare to their students for the first time."

For 2015, student workshops provide students the tools to write their own plays; explore language to unlock the stories and characters packed into Shakespeare's plays; and use key principles of character education to guide students through hands-on, experiential activities that build on the moral dilemmas presented by some of the Bard's most infamous characters. Supplemental curriculum guides are also available online at sfstl.com.

"Shakespeare's works inspire creativity and teach us about the human condition," said Deborah Patterson, president of the Monsanto Fund. "We are delighted to partner

with Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis to bring these classics to students across the state of Missouri.”

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis

Celebrating its 15th season presenting free Shakespeare in Forest Park, and recognized this year with the Excellence in the Arts Award from the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis, the Festival has attracted more than 640,000 people to its annual free performances in Forest Park and has reached 270,000 students through its educational programs. Since 2011, Shakespeare in the Streets has invited St. Louis’ residents to tell their unique stories, hosting an annual five-day citywide marathon of Shakespeare’s 38 plays in the spring and shutting down a neighborhood street for performances in the fall

The Monsanto Fund

The Monsanto Fund is the philanthropic arm of the Monsanto Company. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farm families and Monsanto Company employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at www.monsantofund.org to learn more.