



SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shakespeare Festival and Maryville University Honor Local Educator

Theresa Nigus is named Maryville University Educator of the Year

ST. LOUIS (June 16, 2016) – Theresa Nigus, the drama teacher at Fort Zumwalt North 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 Tom Eschen, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Maryville University. This is the third year Maryville University has sponsored the award, though the Festival has recognized an outstanding teacher of Shakespeare since 2012.

Nigus will be recognized during the pre-show Festival activities on Sat., June 18 at Shakespeare Glen in Forest Park. Joining Nigus will be finalists Aura Kavadlo of Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School, and Shenicquel “Nikki” Spotts, of Shaw Visual & Performing Arts Elementary.

"It's such an honor to be able to partner with Maryville University in recognizing the accomplishments of these wonderful teachers and the work they are doing in the classroom to bring the Bard to life for students from all over St. Louis," said Rick Dildine, artistic and executive director of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. "Our In the Schools programming is such an important part of our work in educating our students in the works of this great playwright, and Theresa serves as a terrific example of the continued relevance and power of Shakespeare's work."

Nigus, who is also a board member for the Missouri State Thespians, has been teaching at Fort Zumwalt North High School since 2001. She received her master's degree from Lindenwood University and her undergraduate degree from Truman State University.

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis' In the Schools Education Tour productions, workshops and study materials have a 15-year legacy of bringing to life the Bard's characters and their deeds of gallant (and not-so-gallant) behavior to more than 290,000 students, and in the process, have won accolades from educators throughout the region. The Festival's education program helps demystify Shakespeare through reading, watching and performing his works.

Shakespeare Festival St. Louis

Celebrating its 16th season presenting free Shakespeare in Forest Park, and recognized with the 2015 Excellence in the Arts Award from the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis, the Festival has attracted more than 662,000 people to its annual free performances in Forest Park and has

reached 288,000 students through its educational programs. In 2010, the Festival launched SHAKE 38, a marathon participatory presentation of Shakespeare's entire 38-play canon community wide, and in 2012, 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. For more information, please visit www.sfstl.com or call 314-531-9800.

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