



'Spring Break-Out' gives students opportunity to shine at VSC

Students to learn about theater history and performance technique at week long camp, April 13-16

The Education and Outreach Department of Virginia Stage Company (VSC) is presenting a week long theater camp for Hampton Roads students, April 13 -16 at the Wells Theatre. Students will learn about the history of theater and performance techniques throughout the week, culminating in a performance of an original play at week's end.

Each day of **Spring Break-Out** will focus on a period from theater history. Students will learn about theater in ancient Greece, the stock characters of Commedia Dell'Arte and highly stylized Restoration Period. There will also be one full day devoted to studying the work of William Shakespeare, using fun and innovative teaching methods.

Using examples from the period, students will get exposure to a wide variety of performances styles and techniques. Time will be spent working on stage directions, gestures, mask work, improv, clowning, dance and proper rehearsal technique.

On the last day of **Spring Break-Out**, students will put what they have learned to practical use in a final performance of an original play they will rehearse all week. The play will incorporate the history and styles of theater in a fresh and innovative way - giving students a direct connection the art form.

"I thought it would be fun if we could take a group of kids on a romp through history and let their imaginations create a performance from it," says Associate Artistic Director, Patrick Mullins. "By looking at different performance styles we not only improve skills but also reinforce creative abilities, social studies, and language arts."

Spring Break-Out is April 13-16 from 12-4pm each day at VSC. The workshop is open to 4th-8th grade students only. There are only 70 spots available for the camp and spots will go quickly. The cost for the week-long camp is \$150 per student, which includes a camp t-shirt.

Drop off each day will be from 11:30-12pm and pick-up will be from 4-4:30 at the Wells Theatre entrance. Lunch will not provided and each student should bring their own snack for breaks. Registration form and parent release required for all participants.

To sign-up for Spring Break-Out, download the registration form at <http://www.vastage.com/education?id=0008> and send it to the VSC Education Department. You may fax the form to (757) 628-5958, e-mail to mchiaverotti@vastage.com or mail it to the VSC Education Department, P.O. Box 3770, Norfolk, VA 23514.

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Media Release

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