



Family YMCA at Tarrytown

62 Main Street
Tarrytown, New York 10591
Ph: 914-631-4807 • Fax: 914-631-4841
www.ymcatarrytown.org

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

June 21, 2010

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Welcome to Summer Shakespeare 2010, an annual program of the Family YMCA at Tarrytown! This year we take on the most challenging and rewarding of the Bard's plays, **HAMLET!** We'll be working very hard to bring this play - what many call the greatest play ever written in the English language - to life!

The camp starts Monday July 5 and continues through performances that will take place **Friday and Saturday, July 30 & 31 at 10 am and 7 pm.** We will also be performing at **Coffee Labs** in Tarrytown during the weekend of **July 24.**

From **July 5 through 22, Monday through Thursday from 1-5 pm,** campers will be rehearsing at the Parish Hall of **Christ Church**, located on W Elizabeth Street at the corner of John Street. The last week of camp, the **hours may be extended** or altered as campers move to **Patriot's Park** to rehearse and familiarize themselves with the outdoor location. All performances will take place on the outdoor stage in Patriot's Park, Tarrytown (on North Broadway right next to the Warner Library) unless there is a threat of bad weather in which case we will move to a TBA indoor location. In case of rain during rehearsals that last week campers will return to the church.

This year is extra special because, for the first time, we will be having two camps running at the same time. While the older group is preparing Hamlet, the younger group will be rehearsing A Midsummer Night's Dream in the early morning! We hope to include some byplay between the two camps so these two age groups can learn from and help each other. Expect plenty of magic, adventure, comedy, drama and excitement for everyone!

Hamlet will be directed by **Peter Royston**, assisted this year by **Alaa Yousef**, who brings the experience of having played the part of Hamlet two years ago. Counselors will be **Ariel Solomon and Emma Greenwood**, both of whom have theatre experience.

This year's production of Hamlet really "shakes" things up: your child has never been in a production like this! Through a series of daily improvisations, process drama exercises and the work of Cecily Berry (voice coach for the Royal Shakespeare Company), campers will be broken into different teams each day and create their own versions of these classic scenes and monologues under the moderation of the counselors. More than ever before, students' ideas and insights will be incorporated into the production. Campers will play several parts and every camper will get to play Hamlet at least once! Peter's mandate this year is to not only put on an exciting and unique version of Hamlet, but to really explore every aspect of this seminal work. Each actor should expect to come to each rehearsal ready to work - there will be little or no down time this year as we dig into the story of Hamlet!

A couple of reminders/suggestions

- Scripts will be handed out during the first few days of rehearsal. They must be brought to camp each day (we suggest putting them in a binder because the kids often lose, damage the scripts or take someone else's home)
- Campers must bring their own snacks to camp. Please bring plenty of water!!!!
- Actors/campers must demonstrate respectful behavior. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Try to have the children go over their lines daily at home.
- Check for letters that we may send home at the end of the day daily.
- Please let us know if you would like to help with designing the program or selling concessions at the performances, we could use some parent volunteers.
- **Please return the enclosed emergency contact form on the first day of camp.**
Remember to contact the Barbara Turk at the YMCA, Peter or Alaa if your child will be absent from camp.
- Peter's Cell is (914) 589-4405, Alaa's cell is (914) 920-8480
- Feel free to contact Barbara Turk, VP of the YMCA, at any time with comments or concerns at (914) 631-4807.

We can't wait to start! See you July 5.

Sincerely,

Barbara G. Turk
VP, Marketing and Community Development