



Family YMCA at Tarrytown

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We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

June 19, 2010

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Welcome to Summer Shakespeare 2010, an annual program of the Family YMCA at Tarrytown! As you know this year your children will be rehearsing to perform one of Shakespeare's most beloved, fun and magical comedies **A Midsummer Night's Dream**.

The camp starts Monday July 5 and continues through **3 performances** that will take place **Thursday July 29 at 7 pm, Friday July 30 at 4 pm and Saturday July 31 at 4 pm**.

From **July 5 through 22, Monday through Thursday from 9-1 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 while the younger group is preparing for A Midsummer Night's Dream, the older group will be rehearsing Hamlet in the afternoon! So there will be plenty of magic, adventure, comedy, drama and excitement for everyone. A Midsummer Night's Dream will be **co-directed by Peter Royston and Rachael Solomon**, who has served as assistant director for the past two years. **Robert Dondiego**, a Shakespeare in the Parks veteran, has graduated from being an actor in the productions to assistant director on A Midsummer Night's Dream. **Catherine Lillis**, no stranger to the stage herself, will also be a counselor.

We have an action-packed summer planned for the cast. Campers will be working every day on the script, memorizing lines, and learning songs. In addition, campers will be creating and building the set, props, costumes, and signs! We have a whole set of theatre games that are not only fun but will help the kids develop their characters, interact with each other on stage, and tap into the magic of Shakespeare. Plus, we'll all be learning some fun magic tricks that will be a part of the play! This year we are emphasizing the idea of transformation and magic in the play, so the campers will really be tapping into their imagination and each child's ideas will be incorporated into the play.

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 lunch/snacks to camp, and will be given half an hour to eat lunch in the late morning. 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 each day.
- 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 Rachael if your child will be absent from camp.
- Peter's Cell is (914) 589-4405, Rachael's Cell is (845) 598-5918
- 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