

## Shakespeare in Your Classroom

At the NCTE convention exhibit hall, I was amazed at how the number of Shakespeare resources had grown over the years. Here are some places you can find resources for your classroom.

### 1 Folger Shakespeare Library

**The Wonder of Will** celebrates 400 years of Shakespeare. The folks at Folger are asking the world to share their personal experiences and connections with Shakespeare and his works. Share your story and invite your students to do the same! Use a smartphone or other device to record and share short videos answering these prompts:

- What's your favorite play to teach and why?
- When did you first read or see Shakespeare?
- Share your favorite Shakespeare lines or speeches.
- Which words and lines from Shakespeare do you love the most and why?
- Tell us about your favorite play and why it is your favorite.
- What is the most memorable production of Shakespeare that you've seen?

*One story per video, please.*

**Share your video** on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or YouTube using the hashtag #MySHX400

More video ideas, fun props and #MySHX400 videos at [folger.edu/MySHX400](http://folger.edu/MySHX400)

**Folger Digital Texts:** Read. Search. Download. Enjoy.

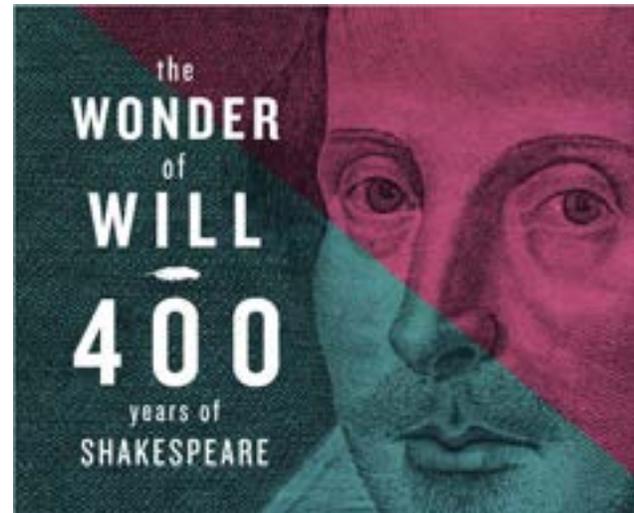
All 38 of Shakespeare's plays are in free, mobile-friendly versions, available at [www.folgerdigitaltexts.org](http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org).

**Teaching Shakespeare Institute:** The four-week summer institute is Folger Education's flagship program. Be one of 25 teachers selected to participate in this rigorous program focused on scholarship, performance and classroom practice, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Are you a committed, passionate, open-minded English teacher, eager to enhance your knowledge and your teaching? Are you a good collaborator with energy to dive into all aspects of this rigorous four-week program with a group of diverse colleagues from across the country? Apply at [www.folger.edu/teaching-shakespeare-2016](http://www.folger.edu/teaching-shakespeare-2016). Questions? Contact Peggy O'Brien at [pobrien@folger.edu](mailto:pobrien@folger.edu).

**Professional Learning Days:** The Folger comes to you! Email Corinne Viglietta ([cviglietta@folger.edu](mailto:cviglietta@folger.edu)) to schedule a one- or two-day teacher workshop for your department, school or district. Professional Learning Days are rigorous programs for middle and high school teachers. Drawing on the Folger's unique resources and experiences, they provide lively, hands-on practice with techniques that connect all kinds of students in all kinds of classrooms with Shakespeare's language — so that everyone ends up reading closely, thinking critically and owning the play.

**Master Classes:** Register for online, live-streamed Master Classes, providing professional development grounded in deep, precise content knowledge and tested classroom strategies. Each one-hour Master Class helps participants teach a specific Shakespeare play and features the following:

- live interaction with scholars, theater professionals and teachers in real classrooms
- play-specific material, perspectives and teaching strategies
- a language-based approach to teaching Shakespeare that works with all students
- a PDF companion bundle of classroom-ready materials and handouts
- a letter from the Folger certifying participation, useful for obtaining CEUs.



**Where:** Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.

**When:** June 26-July 23, 2016

**The Big Idea:** America's Shakespeare

**The Plays:** *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice*

**Teaching Hamlet:** Dec. 10, 2015, 7-8 p.m. EST

**Teaching Othello:** Feb. 11, 2016, 7-8 p.m. EST

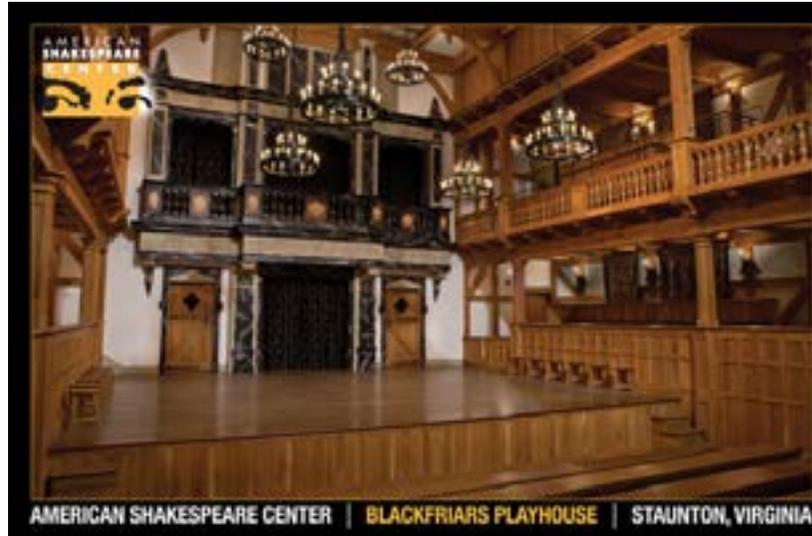
**Teaching Julius Caesar:** March 10, 2016, 7-8 p.m. EST

**Registration:** <http://www.folger.edu/master-classes>

## 2 American Shakespeare Center

Blackfriars Playhouse, a re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theater, features four seasons of plays, primarily Shakespeare's. You'll have to visit Staunton, Virginia, to enjoy them.

However, ASC Education provides teacher resources. Seventeen of their full-length **Shakespeare Study Guides** are available on their website (<http://www.americanshakespearecenter.com/v.php?pg=116>): *As You Like It, The Comedy of Errors, Hamlet, Henry V, Julius Caesar, Macbeth, The Merchant of Venice, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado about Nothing, Othello, Richard III, Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, as well as the "Class to Cast" special and a composite guide featuring *1 Henry IV, 2 Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.



ASC also creates free play-specific **podcasts** for each of its productions. Each podcast is an engaging discussion with Founding Executive Director, Dr. Ralph Alan Cohen, and members of the cast. The discussions average around 40 minutes and are an excellent resource for a behind-the-scenes look at what happens to create each production that appears on the ASC stage. Go to <http://americanshakespearecenter.blogspot.com/> for direct access to ASC's podcast/blog website. Registration is required.

## 3 PBS's Shakespeare Uncovered

The **PBS television series** has a website with videos and activities for teaching Shakespeare: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/shakespeare-uncovered/education/>

Keep clicking on headings and you'll find more material. It's all grounded in the current series of productions, so the plays change each year. This season of Shakespeare Uncovered investigates *A Midsummer Night's Dream, King Lear, Antony and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet, Othello* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Broadcasts are accompanied by the web site and community outreach.



Each episode reveals the extraordinary world and works of William Shakespeare and the still-potent impact his plays have today. The films combine interviews with actors, directors and scholars, along with visits to key locations, clips from some of the most-celebrated film and television adaptations, and illustrative excerpts from the plays staged specially for the series at Shakespeare's Globe in London.

Behind every Shakespeare play there is a story. Shakespeare Uncovered reveals not just the elements in the play, but the history of the play itself. What sparked the creation of each of these works? Where did Shakespeare get his plots, and what new forms of theater did he forge? What cultural, political and religious factors influenced his writing? How have the plays been staged and interpreted from Shakespeare's time to now? Why at different times has each play been so popular – or ignored? And finally, why has this body of work endured so thoroughly? What, in the end, makes Shakespeare so great?