



The English-Speaking Union
National Shakespeare Competition
2016 BRANCH COMPETITION WINNER'S
INFORMATION SHEET



Congratulations! You are one of approximately sixty English-Speaking Union Branch winners nationwide, who will compete in the 2016 ESU National Shakespeare Competition in New York City. Last year's first prize was an all-expenses-paid scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art's *Young Actors Summer School* in London, England (held last summer in late July and early August).

The 2016 National Competition is tentatively scheduled from Sunday, May 1st to Tuesday, May 3rd. You must arrive in New York City by early afternoon on the day before the National Competition (May 1st) and leave by the morning after the Competition (May 3rd). You are expected to *fully* participate in all ESU organized events surrounding the National Competition. NOTE: You should expect to be absent from school all day on Monday (May 2nd), and all or part of the day on Tuesday (May 3rd).

- You will arrive in New York City by early Sunday afternoon, May 1st (at the latest).
Note: If you are traveling alone, you will be met by an ESU representative upon your arrival.
- You will participate in an acting workshop and cultural activities in New York City.
- The semi-finals and finals will be held on Monday, May 2nd (tentatively at Lincoln Center).
- There will be a celebratory cast party for contestants on Monday evening, May 2nd.
- You will leave for home by early Tuesday morning, May 3rd (at the latest).

Please ask your parent or guardian to immediately call Katharine Strobel, Manager of Shakespeare Education Programs, at (212) 818-1200 Ext. 223 for important travel information. Thank you!

Here are some FAQs about the ESU National Shakespeare Competition in New York City:

- **How do I get to New York City?** As soon as your Branch confirms that you are the winner of its local ESU Branch competition, have your parent or guardian call us to discuss your travel arrangements.
- **Can my parents/family attend the competition?** Absolutely! Your parents/family members are guaranteed seats to see your performance at the semi-finals. Attendance at the finals, however, depends on space availability. Note: Parents/family of the finalists are guaranteed seats for the finals (at least 5 seats).
- **What if I want to travel with my parents/family or teacher?** Most contestants do travel with a family member or teacher. If your parent/guardian and/or teacher plan to accompany you to New York, please notify the National Headquarters immediately of this situation; it's essential in our planning of the event.
- **Can I stay with my parents/family or teacher?** While you have the option of traveling with your family or teacher, you are required to stay with the other competitors in accommodations organized by The English-Speaking Union. Required for Sunday night; depending on your travel plans, Monday night is optional.
- **I have friends/relatives who live in New York and/or wish to accompany me to New York. Will I be able to spend time with them?** The competition weekend is both exhilarating and exhausting, filled with events related to the ESU National Shakespeare Competition. There really is no time for activities outside of these events. And, remember, you are required to participate in all ESU organized events.
- **What should I wear?** Spring weather in New York is unpredictable. The days can be quite warm, but the temperature drops as soon as the sun sets, so be sure to bring a jacket. You also will be doing quite a bit of walking during the weekend, so bring both appropriate footwear and an umbrella. Because we will be using public transportation, it is important you bring only what you yourself can carry. Please also keep in mind that most airlines only permit you one free bag (carry on) on domestic flights.
- **Do I need to bring any money?** All of your meals and transportation will be provided by The English-Speaking Union. The only spending most contestants engage in is buying souvenirs of their trip.