



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

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**The Show Will Go on for Students in Maine and New Hampshire!
Theater at Monmouth brings Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* to Local Communities**

Monmouth, Maine –Theater at Monmouth's *Shakespeare in Maine Communities* Tour will go on, though not in person as in previous years, but streaming virtually! Each fall and spring, TAM sends adaptations of classic literature on the road for students in Maine and New Hampshire. Through *ShakesME*, TAM has provided literature-based education tours in schools and community centers since 2005. For 2020, we'll present *Measure for Measure* (for grades 5-12) to deepen understanding of, appreciation for, and connection to classic literature.

Shakespeare's strikingly current play speaks powerfully about impossible moral choices in the story of the devout novice Isabella, whose faith is tested when her brother is sentenced to death for impregnating Juliet out of wedlock. When the outwardly virtuous leader Angelo propositions Isabella in exchange for her brother's release, she must decide whether upholding her holy vows is worth her innocent brother's life.

Measure for Measure will be available to schools and community venues October 12- 31, 2020 (dates can be adjusted to fit curriculum schedules). Due to covid-19 concerns, *ShakesME* performances will be brought to schools via video with a Zoom Post-performance Discussion with the actors following.

TAM's production is part of Shakespeare in American Communities, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. Of getting the news that TAM had received the grant for the program, Producing Artistic Director, Dawn McAndrews responded, "We are so grateful to ArtsMidwest and the National Endowment for the Arts for selecting Theater at Monmouth to receive the Shakespeare in American Communities grant for 2020-21. TAM has been a part of this initiative to bring Shakespeare to students throughout the country for seven of the past eight years". TAM's Shakespeare in Maine Communities is also funded in part by grants from the Onion Foundation, the Helen and George Ladd Charitable Corporation, and the Morton Kelley Charitable Trust. These foundations provide the funding for TAM to offer scholarships to schools to bring the arts into their communities.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, TAM staff was unsure about the ability to bring ShakesME to schools as they have for the past 15 years, especially after postponing the entire 2020 Season. "We were devastated to not be able to bring classic theatre to Maine this year, and felt we'd have to cancel the ShakesME Tour as well," said Jordyn Chelf, TAM's Marketing Associate. "Thankfully the support from Arts Midwest and several other foundations is making ShakesME possible."

Theater at Monmouth has provided literature-based education programs in schools and community centers since the Theater's founding. Since 2005, TAM has taken the Bard on the road with *Shakespeare in Maine Communities*— featuring 60 to 90-minute adaptations of Shakespeare with five to eight actors. The target grade levels for this tour are middle and high schools; previous tours have reached more than 6,000 students annually. For more information about TAM's Education Tours visit www.theateratmonmouth.org/education-tours or call 207.933.9999.



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National Endowment for the Arts Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Art's funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. The agency has partnered with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

Arts Midwest A non-profit regional art organization in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest has served and worked with audiences, arts organizations, and artists around the world for more than 25 years. Their programs provide opportunities for communities large and small to engage with arts and culture.

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Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature in 1975. The theatre's mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from 36 states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than 15,000 students statewide.

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