



RICHMOND  
PERFORMING  
ARTS  
ALLIANCE

600 E. Grace Street | Richmond, Virginia | 23219



**Press Release**  
For Immediate Release  
March 23, 2018

## **RPAA and Quill Theatre Host Ninth Annual Bardathon**

### **Students from Greater Richmond and Russia Perform in Area's Only Non-Competitive Theatre Festival**

Richmond, VA – More than 100 students from 11 local schools and the English Theatrical Society from St. Petersburg, Russia performed in a collaborative rendition of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* on March 23 at Dominion Energy Center. Richmond Performing Arts Alliance (RPAA) has partnered with Quill Theatre to host the annual Bardathon for nine consecutive years.

Each of the 12 participating groups were assigned one or more scenes from *Romeo and Juliet*. Preparation began weeks in advance with students memorizing lines, rehearsing, and creating props and small set pieces, all with the guidance of a theatre teacher and the support of Quill Theatre staff. On the day of Bardathon, the students bring the individual scenes together by collectively acting out the play in its sequential entirety. A final morning of rehearsals at Dominion Energy Center's Genworth BrightLights Education Center leads up to the grand performance at noon in the Libby S. Gottwald Playhouse.

Students from Russia have performed in Bardathon for the past seven years, alternating between traveling to the event and participating via webcast every other year. This year students from St. Petersburg's English Theatrical Society traveled to Dominion Energy Center to perform alongside students from the City of Richmond and surrounding counties.

"For nine years, students from a wide variety of backgrounds have come together to create a truly spectacular performance," said Jen Maddux, RPAA Director of Education. "It's a collage of scenes crafted from each school's perspective to create a one-of-a-kind Shakespearean performance like you've never seen before."

"Bardathon emphasizes theatre's ability to unify students," said Jan Powell, Quill Theatre Producing Artistic Director. "As Richmond's only non-competitive theatre festival, this performance brings together students who often compete with each other for roles and is a unique experience to be remembered for years to come. "

Bardathon's ultimate goal is to bring diverse students together to celebrate the joy of playing some of the richest and most interesting characters ever written in the English language. By performing for one another, students can both learn from and share with each other.

Bardathon is sponsored by the Richmond branch of the English-Speaking Union.



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This year's participating student groups include:

Atlee High School (Hanover County)  
Collegiate School (Henrico County)  
Deep Run High School (Henrico County)  
English Theatrical Society (St. Petersburg, Russia)  
Huguenot High School (Richmond City)  
James River High School (Chesterfield County)  
J.R. Tucker High School (Henrico County)  
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies (Richmond City)  
Middlesex High School (Richmond City)  
New Kent High School (New Kent County)  
Richmond Area Homeschoolers  
Richmond Community High School (Richmond City)

**Note: Live-streaming of the noon event will be provided for parents and the public at [RPAAlliance.com](http://RPAAlliance.com).**

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**Richmond Performing Arts Alliance**

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***Richmond Performing Arts Alliance** (formerly Richmond CenterStage Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide diverse local and world-class performing arts, transformative arts education experiences for students of all ages, and inspirational venues—all to strengthen the culture and economic vitality of the Greater Richmond region. It is the home to 11 resident arts companies and performing arts groups. RPAA venues include the historic Carpenter Theatre, Libby S. Gottwald Playhouse and Rhythm Hall at Dominion Energy Center and Altria Theatre – the largest performance venue between New York and Atlanta. Its arts education initiative operates out of the Genworth BrightLights Education Center and reaches students of all ages in the City of Richmond and surrounding counties.*

***Quill Theatre** was born from the merger of Henley Street Theatre and Richmond Shakespeare. Now in our collective 31st season, our mission is to create theatre rooted in the genius of Shakespeare that provokes the mind and speaks to the soul – theatre worth talking about!*

***The English-Speaking Union of the United States** is committed to promoting scholarship and the advancement of knowledge through the effective use of English in an expanding global community. It is a non-profit, non-political, educational organization formally organized in 1920. It shares its mission with more than 50 nations with English-Speaking Union organizations. The Richmond branch also seeks to promote understanding and good will among the people of the world who speak English, support cultural programs and educational exchanges, and cultivate an appreciation of our common English-speaking heritage.*