



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Acting Up (in Acadiana)'s The Summer Youth Shakespeare Ensemble presents
"A Midsummer Night's Dream"**

(Lafayette, La.) — More than 40 local acting students between ages 10-18 are working hard to create a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" for Acting Up (in Acadiana)'s Summer Youth Shakespeare Ensemble (SYSE).

SYSE is a 15-day intensive performing arts camp that includes music, acting, dancing, and design classes. The program culminates with performances of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on July 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. and July 19 at 2 p.m. at the Acadiana Center for the Arts. In these performances, young student actors take on the roles of royalty, fools and fairies as three different worlds over-lap and collide in the fun-filled Shakespearean comedy.

Acting Up, the resident professional theatre company at the Acadiana Center for the Arts, challenges its Summer Youth Shakespeare Ensemble (SYSE) to produce the performance while also taking classes.

"I've been coming to Summer Shakespeare for a while now, and I love the challenge that it gives — performing a Shakespearian play in two weeks," said Ilana Gugich, age 18, sixth-year camper. "I've made so many friends through the camp, and I look forward to it every year."

For tickets, call 337-233-7060 or visit www.acadianacenterforthearts.org. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$8 for students high school aged and under. Acadiana Center for the Arts members receive a \$2 discount. For more information, call 337-739-4273.

The Summer Youth Shakespeare Ensemble is in its thirteenth year and produces a different theatre performance each year. SYSE is sustained by a grant from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation administered by the Stage Backers and by Ricky and Sonya Briggs in loving memory of their daughter Amanda Briggs.

Professional staff include Hector LaSala, set design; George Saucier and Chance Briant, music; Chad Trahan, costume design; Esther Winn choreography, Brian Schneider lighting design, and Amy Waguespack, acting and directing, and numerous members of Acting Up (in Acadiana): Hannah and Ricky Briggs, Sarah Mikayla Brown, Lian Cheramie, Kelly Clayton, Cathy Wagnon and interns Destin Briant, Samantha Degeyter, Katherine Durel and Mackenzie McAnnaly.

Acting Up (in Acadiana)

Founded in 2003 by Amy Waguespack, Acting Up (in Acadiana) is the resident theatre company at the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette, Louisiana. Acting Up creates ensemble driven work with the belief that every production is bigger than any individual artist involved and ultimately meant to connect with an audience.

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For more information about this topic, please email Amy Waguespack at amy.waguespack@lusfiber.net or call 337-739-4273.