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7 REHEARSALS. 7 WEEKS. 8 COMMUNITY MEMBERS. THAT'S THE SHAKESPEARE CHALLENGE.

Shakespeare in Action's fearless Challengers will rehearse and perform an abridged version of Twelfth Night over the course of only seven weeks... all in the name of access to the arts for youth in priority neighborhoods!

Toronto- The race is on to perform William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* on **May 21, 2014 at The Arts and Letters Club of Toronto**. These Challengers have volunteered their time and talent, and have committed to selling 7 tickets each to their friends, family, and colleagues for the gala performance!

All of the money raised will go towards Shakespeare in Action's subsidized ticket program, which has already granted thousands of students in priority neighborhoods across Toronto access to professional theatre productions and other educational and community programs. Shakespeare in Action's programs were recently hailed for making a difference in young people's lives on Global Television and CityTV.

"Shakespeare gave us the greatest gift- the power of language and words. We want to continue to share this gift with our young audiences, the next generation, the future champions," says Michael Kelly, Artistic Director of Shakespeare in Action and Director of *Twelfth Night*.

Rehearsing only one night a week, these professionals - from various sectors, including financial, real estate, and education - will put the show together with little more than 24 hours of rehearsal time. Now THAT'S a challenge!

Tickets are on sale now for the gala performance on May 21, and can be purchased at the Shakespeare in Action website (www.shakespeareinaction.org/shakespeare-challenge). Following the performance, guests will be treated to live music and have a chance to walk away winners by bidding on fabulous items in the silent auction.

To arrange an interview or comment from Michael Kelly, please contact Jennifer Ierullo, Administrative and Marketing Assistant, at (416) 703-4881 or jenny@shakespeareinaction.org