

JANUARY 13, 2014  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **A Unique Gift for Valentine's Day - Shakespeare Sonnets by Kids!**

*Toronto – "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"* What better cure for the "winter of our discontent"? This Valentine's Day, Shakespeare in Action (SIA) – Canada's leading Shakespeare company for young audiences – will give the gift of poetry to your loved one.

Together, Shakespeare in Action's Artistic Director, Michael Kelly, and Education team will gather outstanding children aged 7-12, to learn and recite some of Shakespeare's beloved sonnets. *"What better gift to give the one you love? Imagine receiving a call on a windy, wet day, and have a Shakespeare sonnet performed for you by a talented, passionate kid. It's special and magical,"* says Kelly about this unique opportunity.

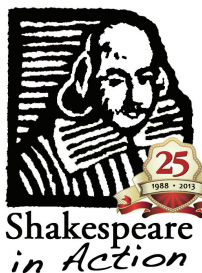
### **How does it work?**

- Visit <http://www.shakespeareinaction.org/sonnets-by-kids>.
- Select and purchase your favourite Shakespeare Sonnet – 18, 24, 29, or 116. (Only \$25 CDN)
- On Valentine's Day, between 4:30pm and 6:30pm EST, a talented and charming Shakespeare Kid will call your lucky Valentine and recite the sonnet with a heart full of love!
- A Shakespeare Kid will also sign and mail a personalized copy of the sonnet for your Valentine!

**SONNETS BY KIDS** are available in Canada, the US, and the UK until Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 5pm EST. Each year, the Valentines sell out, so purchase yours quickly while quantities last!

All proceeds support Shakespeare in Action's educational programs throughout the GTA – workshops, residencies, and the TD Shakespeare for Kids Library Club, a free reader's theatre program that runs in 30 Toronto Public Library branches each year. For 25 years, Shakespeare in Action has served thousands of children, many in Toronto's 13 priority neighborhoods.

When asked his favourite part of Sonnet 29, 7-year-old Sonnet Kid Henry says, *"the whole thing...He wants all the money and he wants to be a king. He wants all the power, and then he's happy because he has LOVE."*



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**Shakespeare in Action**

For 25 years, Shakespeare in Action (SIA) has been Canada's leading Professional Classical Theatre Company for Young Audiences. Shakespeare in Action produces main-stage productions and a variety of education and outreach programs in partnership with TD Bank, the Toronto Public Library, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ontario Arts Council, and Canada Council for the Arts. As a charitable not-for-profit organization dedicated to introducing young people to the magic of Shakespeare, language and live theatre, Shakespeare in Action relies on the support of donors, partners, and sponsors to help it continue to do the work it is passionate about, and make a real impact on young people who might otherwise never experience live theatre.