

November 6, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TD Bank Group supports Shakespeare for Kids for 8th consecutive year!

Toronto – Shakespeare in Action is pleased to announce renewed support from TD Bank Group for the TD Shakespeare for Kids Library Club. Since 2005, *The TD Shakespeare for Kids Library Club*, a literacy program for children aged 7-12, has been delivered in public libraries across Toronto.

“We are thrilled to support the TD Shakespeare for Kids Library Club as it places an emphasis on classic literary works that encourage reading and inspire the joy of learning,” said Alan Convery, Senior Manager, Community Relations, TD Bank Group. “We look forward to seeing this program continuing to grow.”

Developed by Shakespeare in Action Artistic Director Michael Kelly, in partnership with the TPL, this FREE program has served over 6000 GTA children. This season, Shakespeare in Action is proud to announce 30 TPL libraries will participate in the program from November 2013 through May 2014.

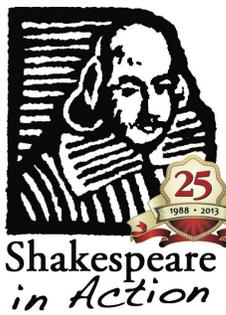
The *TD Shakespeare for Kids Library Club* runs for six consecutive Saturdays and empowers children to learn through the arts. Shakespeare in Action assembles a team of highly trained and experienced actor-educators to aid children in understanding Shakespeare’s poetic language.

“I used to be shy, but now I feel like I’ve done something difficult and I feel more able to try new things,” says Mark, age 12, a 2012 Library Club participant.

The program makes Shakespeare easy and fun and is so popular that retention rates are over 90% in all 30 branches. Participants of the program read aloud from Shakespeare’s most famous works including *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth*. Through their participation, children gain confidence and a deeper understanding of Shakespeare’s work.

“This is what we’re all about,” said Shakespeare in Action Artistic Director, Michael Kelly, *“Our mission of enhancing cultural literacy by bringing Shakespeare alive flourishes each and every time we deliver this program. I take my hat off to TD for believing in the power of language and for their commitment to literacy.”*

Registration for the 2013/14-season is now open. For more information and a full schedule of participating Toronto library locations, visit the Shakespeare in Action website at www.shakespeareinaction.org



-30-

Media Contact:

Shemina Keshvani - General Manager
(416) 703-4881, shemina@shakespeareinaction.org

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 Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and Ontario Trillium Foundation. 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 us continue to do the work we are passionate about, and make a real impact on young people who might otherwise never experience live theatre.

Michael Kelly BIO

Michael is an actor, director, producer, teacher, and arts educator who has garnered critical and popular acclaim for his innovative work with young audiences. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Shakespeare In Action, and has attracted local, national and international media attention with features on TVO's *Imprint*, *Canada AM*, *W-5*, and CBC's *As It Happens*.

His credits include directing many contemporary and Shakespearean plays as well as teaching master classes for The Stratford Festival, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

Michael is a part-time member of the Theatre Faculty at York University. He has also taught acting at George Brown College, Randolph Academy for the Arts, and the National Youth Drama School in New Zealand. He has abridged a series of Shakespeare's plays for young audiences aged 7-12, collectively titled "*Shakespeare for Kids*".