Teacher's SchoolFest Companion Guide

2026-2027

ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

TEACHER'S SCHOOLFEST COMPANION GUIDE

2026-2027 SEASON

Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the State's theatre, builds community by engaging, entertaining, and inspiring people with transformative theatrical performances and compelling educational and community programs.

Our annual SchoolFest student matinee series presents high-quality theatrical experiences to more than 20,000 students each year. To ensure your students have a safe and enjoyable experience, please take a moment to review the information provided below. Even if you've visited Alabama Shakespeare Festival in the past, it might be helpful to review and discuss best practices with your students. We look forward to seeing you at the theater!

WHAT'S IN THE STUDY GUIDES?

Our SchoolFest study guides include practical educational materials, worksheets, and lesson activities that can help you prepare your students to see a live performance at Alabama Shakespeare Festival, while meeting Alabama Course of Study and National Core Arts standards. Each study guide includes anticipation activities, background on the play, interviews with artists, classroom games/exercises, and post-performance lesson materials. Please email us at **education@asf.net** with any questions regarding study materials for SchoolFest productions. Study guides can be viewed at: www.asf.net/resources

WHAT'S THE SCHOOLFEST TIMELINE?

9:30 a.m. (suggested arrival time)
We suggest arriving at least a half hour before the performance to allow your students the opportunity to use the restroom and be escorted to their seats.

10:00 a.m. (performance begins)
We make every effort to begin SchoolFest performances on time. If your school arrives late, our friendly house management team will seat you whenever possible. Most performances will have an intermission, which is a great opportunity for students to stretch, use the restroom, and visit the snack bar. Performances typically last around 2 hours with a 15-minute intermission.

Post-Performance Discussion
Following each SchoolFest matinee performance, we offer talkback Q&A sessions featuring members of the cast and crew. Students are allowed to ask questions about the performance or the production in general. We encourage all schools to stick around for this discussion; it typically lasts about 20 minutes.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

- Discard any gum, food, or drinks before entering the theater. No outside food or beverages are allowed.
- Going to the theater is an event! Dress the way that best represents YOU, but please remember your school dress code policies still apply.
- No talking or distracting your neighbors during the performance, please. Be aware of how your behavior impacts other audience members as well as the actors on stage. Remember this is LIVE theatre; the actors on stage can see and hear you!
- All electronic devices should be turned off during the performance. If you need your device to remain on for emergency purposes, please silence the device and reduce screen resolution to a minimum. Texting, photography, and video recording are all strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Should you need to exit the theater for any reason, please do so quietly without distracting your fellow audience members or the actors on stage. You will be reseated at the discretion of the ushers/house management team.
- House lights will dim signaling time for the performance to begin. Enjoy the show! Breathe with your fellow audience members, react, applaud, laugh whenever appropriate. Please be respectful of the actors during the performance and give them the privilege of your focused attention.
- Lastly, YOU are the most important part of any performance. Without you, our audience, the performance would only be another rehearsal. Thank you for visiting ASF!

A NOTE FOR TEACHERS:

- Please distribute yourselves among your group to monitor your students. Remind your chaperones they are there to help you with behavior and student safety.
- If your school is not staying for the post-performance discussion, please exit the theater immediately after curtain/bows. All schools that plan to stick around (thank you) should plan for the discussion to last about 20 minutes!
- Anything brought into the theater should be taken back with your group! Remind your students to pick up after themselves!
- To request a copy of any script for content review, please reach out to Cameron Williams at cwilliams@asf.net.

ASF reserves the right to dismiss any schools or students for any damages to ASF property or any demonstration of disruptive behavior that endangers our staff, actors, or other guests during the performance.

DIRECTIONS TO ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Patrons, please note:

GPS navigation devices will occasionally lead you to a gated service road (Arbor Station off Eastern Blvd.) rather than to the park entrances on Woodmere Blvd. or Vaughn Road. You will not be able to enter the park at that gated service entrance.

As you are confirming directions, please be sure that your driving instructions include **Woodmere Blvd.** or **Vaughn Road**. These are the only access points into the park.

Directions
Street Address:
1 Festival Drive Montgomery, AL 36117

From MOBILE (172 Miles) and NEW ORLEANS (312 Miles)
I-65 North to Montgomery to I-85 North to Exit 6, East Blvd. Once on Exit 6, take the first off-ramp for East Blvd. heading South. When the lanes divide, stay in the left lane under the signs for Carmichael Rd. and Woodmere Blvd. This lane will then split again before the stoplight at the top of the off-ramp. Stay in the middle lane. At the second light, make a left onto Woodmere Blvd. Turn onto Eastern Boulevard and stay in the left lane. At the second light, make a left turn onto Woodmere Blvd. Entrance to the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park is 1/2 mile on right. Follow the signs to the theater once in the park.

From BIRMINGHAM (90 Miles) and HUNTSVILLE (164 Miles)
I-65 South to Montgomery to I-85 North to Exit 6, East Blvd. Once on Exit 6, take the first off-ramp for East Blvd. heading South. When the lanes divide, stay in the left lane under the signs for Carmichael Rd. and Woodmere Blvd. This lane will then split again before the stoplight at the top of the off-ramp. Stay in the middle lane. At the second light, make a left onto Woodmere Blvd. Turn onto Eastern Boulevard and stay in the left lane. At the second light, make a left turn onto Woodmere Blvd. Entrance to the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park is 1/2 mile on right. Follow the signs to the theater once in the park.

From AUBURN (46 Miles) and ATLANTA (180 Miles)
I-85 South to Montgomery. Take Exit 6, East Blvd. You will approach a traffic light at the end of the ramp. Take a left on East Blvd. and stay in the left lane. At the second light, make a left onto Woodmere Blvd. Entrance to the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park is 1/2 mile on right.

From TROY (47 Miles) and DOTHAN (103 Miles) and Tallahassee (192 Miles)
US 231 North to Southeast Blvd. (Barnes & Noble Bookstore on Right) Take a right on East Blvd. Go through seven to eight traffic lights until you see the Woodmere Blvd. turn on the right. Take a right onto Woodmere Blvd. Entrance to the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park is 1/2 mile on right.

From Montgomery's Airport (Dannelly Field 15 Miles)
As you exit the airport, turn right onto U.S. Highway 80 East (also known as Selma Highway). Continue east to the intersection with Interstate 65 North (towards Birmingham). The entrance to I-65 North is left off of US 80. Take I-65 north to the intersection with I-85 North. Follow I-85 North to Exit 6 (East Blvd.). Take the first off ramp for East Blvd heading South. When the lanes divide, stay in the left lane under the signs for Carmichael Rd. and Woodmere Blvd. This lane will then split again before the stoplight at the top of the off-ramp. Stay in the middle lane. At the second light, make a left onto Woodmere Blvd. Turn onto Eastern Boulevard and stay in the left lane. At the second light, make a left turn onto Woodmere Blvd. Entrance to the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park is 1/2 mile on right. Follow the signs to the theater once in the park.

DIRECTIONS TO ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL *(Cont...)*

PARKING & STUDENT DROP OFF

Please have your bus driver bring your group(s) to the main entrance of the building for drop off (delineated with the yellow star). An ASF representative will meet you at the door and deliver instructions for seating in the theater.

Bus drivers should follow the red arrows, then drive around the pond to get back to the parking area.