

# Shakespeare Festival/LA



## YOUTH AND EDUCATION

The Youth & Education Department offers a unique blend of programs for adults and youth that combine job training and professional development with academic enrichment, human relations training and hands-on arts experience. Through participation in the Will Power programs, youth gain increased: capacity for economic self sufficiency, confidence in academic settings, conflict resolutions skills and appreciation for diversity.

In a recent study independent study of a local high school, the graduation rate of participating youth in our nationally-acclaimed Will Power to Youth (WPY) was more than double that of the overall student body.

## EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

**Will Power to Youth** was created in 1993 in response to the needs of at-risk youth and has since changed many lives. Each WPY session hires a group of 20-30 local youth who live at or below the poverty level.

These teens are hired full time for 7 weeks to produce and perform an adaptation of a Shakespeare play that incorporates their thoughts and feelings into Shakespeare's text. Participants build work readiness skills and an awareness of workplace etiquette as they earn wages.

Will Power to Youth inspires self-respect, promotes mutual respect, encourages the valuing of differences, increases literacy skills and fosters an appreciation for the arts.

**BELOW:** The *Winter's Tale* cast pose with Congressman Howard Berman (D-28th District)



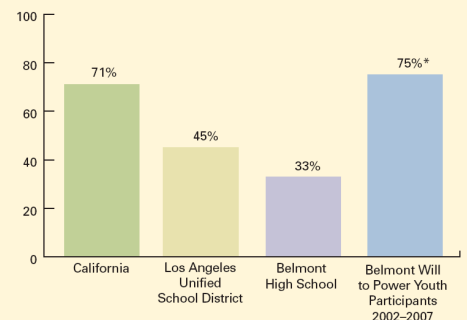
Teens in WPY's 2008 production of *A Winter's Tale*.



### WILL POWER TO YOUTH HAS...

- had more than 900 Participants
- accumulated More than 3445 hours of graded academic credit
- paid More than \$558,000 in youth wages

High School Graduation Rates: CPI  
(Cumulative Promotion Index)



#### Notes

1. CPI data for California, LAUSD, and Belmont High drawn from Harvard Civil Rights Projects (2002).
2. Will Power to Youth graduation rate calculated adjusting for student mobility, dropouts, and those who left the district.

\*Adjusted for mobility rate

Graph from the 2007 Impact Report  
prepared by Dr. Simeon Slovacek.

# Shakespeare Festival/LA



(ABOVE) Play On! participant Daniel works with Song writing mentor Brian Joseph.

(BELOW) Teens in our Will to Work program at a Summer Festival show



## YOUTH AND EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

**Play On!**, WPY's after school "spin-off" program explores songwriting, poetry and sound engineering. Youth artists work with professional artist mentors to create a music and spoken word CD drawing inspiration from Shakespeare's work. CD's are available for purchase online under the label Urban Shakespeare.

**Will to Lead** is a youth leadership program that offers counseling, academic tutoring, and cultural field trips. Will to Lead provides opportunities for advanced leadership training, deeper human relations work, and advanced conflict resolution training. Will to Lead graduates are eligible to become Youth Leaders and mentors to new youth participants hired to work in subsequent Will Power to Youth and Play On! sessions.

## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

**Audition Prep Workshop** prepares middle and high school aged students to audition for competitive programs such as the L.A. County High School for the Arts and the California State Summer School for the Arts. Designed for students who do not have access to private coaching, this workshop series focuses on providing Shakespeare instruction, individual coaching, and interview preparation.

**Will to Work** places highly motivated young people into structured, wage-paying internships in Shakespeare Festival/LA's professional main stage production program alongside professional designers, actors and theater technicians. Youth Interns gain real-world backstage, onstage, and front of house experiences.

**Will Power to Schools** is a dynamic, accredited in-service teacher training process that invigorates the teaching & learning of Shakespeare in the classroom. Participating teachers can offer their students instructional materials, classroom sets of the play, free tickets and transportation to our Summer Shows.

**Youth Arts Professionals Institute** offers artists who create collaborative work with youth a rare opportunity to examine their own practices as teachers and artists. Artists develop their skills in conflict resolution and community building, as they refine their abilities to design and lead workshops.