

company has designed a new touring model that will increase their impact by building partnerships with 12 high schools through their Learning Through Theater educational program. These schools represent a racial, ethnic, and socio-economic cross-section of the nation.

California Shakespeare Theater (Berkeley, CA) will perform *Othello*, directed by Artistic Director Eric Ting. Ting will collaborate with playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins to abridge the play, sharpening its already-potent themes of racial injustice, white envy, and fear of the outsider. Cal Shakes will present four matinees as part of the company's Student Discovery program, along with classroom workshops, residencies, actor talkbacks, and additional activities at their outdoor theater.

Cape Fear Regional Theater (Fayetteville, NC) will perform *Henry V*, directed by Artistic Director Tom Quaintance. This production is part of their mainstage season with six student matinees scheduled. The company will work primarily with schools in Cumberland County, including middle schools on the Fort Bragg Army base. Schools will receive teacher guides, student resource guides, and pre-show videos showcasing the director, actors, and designers, and will have the opportunity to integrate the company's Actors on The Go workshops in their classroom.

[Please view the complete list of the 40 theater companies](#) that have been selected to participate in *Shakespeare in American Communities* for 2016-2017. Additionally, to enhance the educational impact of *Shakespeare in American Communities*, Arts Midwest and the NEA have developed a comprehensive [Shakespeare in American Communities](#) website in order to share resources and grantee spotlights.

About Arts Midwest

Arts Midwest promotes creativity, nurtures cultural leadership, and engages people in meaningful arts experiences, bringing vitality to Midwest communities and enriching people's lives. Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six nonprofit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 30 years. For more information, visit artsmidwest.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts and the agency is celebrating this milestone with events and activities through September 2016. For more information, visit arts.gov.