William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often referred to as England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon." His extant works, including collaborations, consist of approximately 39 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. He also invented a large number of words and phrases widely used today.

Shakespeare was born and brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, with whom he had three children. Some time between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part-owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. At age 49 around 1613, he appears to have retired to Stratford, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, which has stimulated considerable speculation about such matters as his physical appearance, sexuality, religious beliefs and whether the works attributed to him were written by others. These speculations are often criticized for failing to point out the fact that few records survive of most commoners of his period.

Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were primarily comedies and histories, which are regarded as some of the best work ever produced in these genres. He then wrote mainly tragedies until about 1608, including Hamlet, Othello, King Lear and Macbeth, considered some of the finest works in the English language. In his last phase, he wrote tragicomedies, also known as romances, and collaborated with other playwrights.

Many of his plays were published in editions of varying quality and accuracy during his lifetime. However, in 1623 John Heminges and Henry Condell, two friends and fellow actors of Shakespeare, published a more definitive text known as the First Folio, a posthumous collected edition of his dramatic works that included all but two of the plays now recognized as Shakespeare's. It was prefaced with a poem by Ben Jonson, in which Shakespeare is hailed, presciently, as "not of an age, but for all time." In the 20th and 21st centuries, his works have been repeatedly adapted and rediscovered by new movements in scholarship and performance. His plays remain highly popular and are constantly studied, performed, and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts throughout the world.

(Adapted from Quizlet Shakespeare Facts)
The Program

PROGRAM

• Welcome
• Introduction of the Judges and summary of competition rules
• The Rochester Shakespeare Competition (RSC) students perform
  ➢ Warm up: Bethany Ferguson from Spenceport High School
  ➢ Students perform sonnets and monologues
• Judges retire to deliberate
• 15 minute break for refreshments
• “Roc the Sonnet” awards
  ➢ Awards to runner up
  ➢ Awards to 1st place sonnets and readings
• Presentation of gifts to RSC participants
• Group photo of RSC participants & teachers
• Announcements of upcoming Shakespeare events
• Announcement of Third, Second and First Place in RSC
• Presentation of prizes to student winners
• Closing remarks by Roger Janezic

The 2019 ESU National Shakespeare Competition

April 23rd 2019
New York City

➢ Meet with winners from 55 Regions of the country
➢ Attend events and workshops
➢ Perform at Lincoln Center
➢ Perform in front of renowned actors and Shakespeare scholars
➢ Vie for Grand prize: a summer scholarship to an acting school in England
The Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE) of the University of Rochester is a unique national resource for research and education in science and technology. LLE was established in 1970 as a center for the investigation of the interaction of intense radiation with matter. One of its primary missions is to conduct implosion experiments and basic physics experiments in support of the National Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) program. The ultimate objective the ICF program is to demonstrate the feasibility of ICF as an inexhaustible energy source. LLE is funded as a cooperative venture by industry, New York State, the Federal Government, and the University.

The Omega laser’s 40-kilojoule output is used, among other things, to crush hydrogen pellets and initiate nuclear fusion. Fusion is the process that occurs in the sun.

Summer Research Program for High School Juniors

The Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE) at the University of Rochester holds an annual summer research program for Rochester-area high school students who have just completed their junior year. The eight-week program provides an exceptional opportunity for highly motivated students to experience scientific research in a realistic environment. Students who are accepted into the program are assigned to a research project and supervised by a staff scientist at the Laboratory. The 2018 Summer Research Program for High School Juniors will begin on 9 July and continue through 31 August 2019. The application deadline for this program is 18 March 2019.

Details: http://www.lle.rochester.edu/about/education/high_school_program.php

The Competition Order

1. Penfield High School, Reese Stojanovski
2. Allendale Columbia School, Claire Lustig
3. Webster-Thomas High School, Nico Pantojas
4. Rush-Henrietta High School, Ashlie Morrison
5. Spencerport High School, Samantha Ricotta
6. Churchville-Chili High School, Grace Alessi
7. The Harley School, Nate Zanin
8. School of the Arts, Tali Beckwith-Cohen

School order was blind randomized
Jonathan Baldo
Professor of English
Eastman School of Music/University of Rochester

Jonathan Baldo holds a B.A. in English from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and has been a faculty member of the Eastman School of Music since 1983 and chair of the department from 1997-2005. He holds a B.A. in English from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and has been a faculty member of the Eastman School of Music since 1983 and chair of the department from 1997-2005. A specialist in Shakespeare and early modern studies, Jonathan Baldo regularly offers courses in Elizabethan and Jacobean Shakespeare and Shakespeare’s history plays. His most recent books are a monograph, Memory in Shakespeare’s Histories: Stages of Forgetting in Early Modern England (2012), and a co-edited volume, Forms of Faith: Literary Form and Religious Conflict in Early Modern England (2017). His articles on Shakespeare and early modern culture have appeared in Shakespeare Quarterly, English Literary Renaissance, Renaissance Drama, and numerous other journals.

Deborah Uman
Professor and Chair, Department of English
St. John Fisher College

Deborah Uman is professor and chair of English at St. John Fisher College, where she teaches Shakespeare as part of her regular rotation of courses that also includes classes on postcolonial Literature, dystopian fiction, and nature writing. She received a B.A. in English from Yale and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Much of her research focuses on gender and Renaissance literature, culminating in her monograph, Women as Translators in Early Modern England and the co-edited collection, Staging the Blazon in Early Modern Theatre. She is currently working to bring the Clemente Course in the Humanities to Rochester in partnership with the Catholic Family Center.

Susan R. Woodward
Teacher, Community Theatre Actress

Susan is an English teacher at Webster Schroeder High School. Besides teaching, she has participated in various community theatre productions throughout the Rochester area, and participated in a summer theatre program through Thames Valley University in London. As a performer, she is thrilled to be a part of this year’s ESU competition. Her greatest roles, though, are that of a mom of five and a Nana to nine beautiful grandchildren!
Past Winners

The past winners of the Rochester Shakespeare Competition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Michelle Panzer</td>
<td>Penfield High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Sarah Davie</td>
<td>Our Lady of Mercy High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Sarah Davie</td>
<td>Our Lady of Mercy High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Ethan Sinnott</td>
<td>Brighton High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Mindy Ferrarco</td>
<td>Fairport High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Marya Kaminiski</td>
<td>Churchville-Chili High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Steven Reid Rosen</td>
<td>Pittsford Sutherland High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Sara Mayer</td>
<td>Penfield High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Rebecca Lamb</td>
<td>Penfield High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Mikaal Sulaiman</td>
<td>Penfield High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Cassandra Connors</td>
<td>Pittsford Sutherland High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Amy Green</td>
<td>Irondequoit High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Megan Lawler</td>
<td>Dansville High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Adam Rath</td>
<td>Victor High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Aaron Netsky</td>
<td>Allendale-Columbia School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Molly Conway</td>
<td>Rush Henrietta High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Jennifer McDonald</td>
<td>Victor High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Esther Van Wely</td>
<td>Fairport High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Jennifer O’Leary</td>
<td>Churchville-Chili High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Mary Zindle</td>
<td>School of the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Ian Grygotic</td>
<td>Eastridge High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Luisa Barbano</td>
<td>The Harley School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Mikayla Brennan-Burke</td>
<td>The Harley School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Gus Cuddy</td>
<td>School of the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Summar Howard</td>
<td>Wayne High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Calisa Gayle</td>
<td>Wilson Magnet High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Rob Kellogg</td>
<td>The Harley School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Claire Janezic</td>
<td>Wilson Magnet High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Eli Owens</td>
<td>Penfield High School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Judges

Peter Haggerty
Retired Professor, RIT, Actor, Teacher

Peter Haggerty retired as an English professor at NTID at RIT, where he received an Award for Outstanding Teaching. Peter performs with and serves on the board of the NYC-based Interborough Repertory Theater (IRT).

His past Shakespearean roles have included Prospero and Iago. He played Mr. Mushnik in “Little Shop of Horrors,” winner of the CITY Newspaper’s “Best Local Theater Production of 2018.” Peter voice acts with the Deaf/hearing performing group, “Dangerous Signs,” with whom he has voiced Puck, Prospero, Othello, Petruchio, and Romeo, and is currently in rehearsal for “Man of La Mancha.”

Organizers and Volunteers

Roger Janezic – Competition co-coordinator
Laboratory for Laser Energetics

Wendy Low – Competition co-coordinator, judge liaison
Freelance Editor and Writing Coach
Organized Rochester Shakespeare Competition since 2002.

Diana Louise Carter – Volunteer, prompter
Shakespeare Literary Society

Sally Millick – Volunteer, programs
Shakespeare Literary Society

Randall Laird – Volunteer
High School History Teacher with passion for Hamlet

Lori Bryce – Volunteer, food prep
Parent of RCSD students

Ross and Dale Janezic – Volunteers
Students at the School of the Arts

Special thanks to Carol Personte (U of R, Bloch Center) for her invaluable help!
The English Speaking Union (ESU)

Founded in 1920, The English-Speaking Union of the United States is a 501c3 non-profit, non-political charitable corporation with the mission to celebrate English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members.

Headquartered in New York City, the ESU undertakes its programs through its members in a network of 70 Branches in as many communities nationwide. An independent American corporation, the ESU-US works in fellowship with more than 50 independent ESUs around the world.

ESU members work together locally, nationally and internationally to foster global understanding through a variety of educational, cultural and social programs. The ESU's national programs are supported by its unrestricted endowment and corporate and foundation grants as well as by the generosity of its members. Members benefit from the personal relationships and international exposure gained from ESU activities and events while they provide financial and volunteer support to sustain these programs. Programs you may find of interest include:

— A "Gap Year" Abroad: The ESU Secondary School Exchange is a merit-based scholarship providing tuition, room and board for scholars to spend a year between high school and college at a British boarding school.

— The Luard Morse Scholarship: provides up to $25,000 towards a semester of study at a British university to students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

— Tlab Study in the UK: for educators and lifelong learners: one to six-week immersive learning. Live and learn on the famed campuses of England and Scotland or take a deep dive into Shakespeare—exploring his hometown or standing on the stage of the Globe.

Our Supporters and Sponsors

The Laboratory for Laser Energetics at the University of Rochester

The Laboratory for Laser Energetics has made it possible for the use of the Larry and Cindy Bloch Center for this year’s event.

Wegmans

Wegmans has donated generously toward today’s refreshments.

Writers & Books

Writers & Books has administered the “Roc the Sonnet” competition.

RCP will host the three finalists to perform at Highland Bowl.

The English-Speaking Union

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.
The Rochester Shakespeare Competition is conducted under the auspices of the English-Speaking Union of the United States (ESU). The winner of today’s event will participate in the English Speaking Union’s National Shakespeare Competition, now in its 36th year. The event will be held April 23rd at Lincoln Center in New York City.

The Rochester Chapter of the English Speaking Union has conducted the Rochester Competition since 1990. A list of winners may be found on the Rochester Chapter’s website and on page 15. The trophy displayed out in the lobby displays the names of all the winners since 2002, and will be awarded, for one year, to today’s winner.

The co-ordinators for today’s event are Wendy Low and Roger Janezic.

The website address for the Rochester Chapter is www.esuus.org/Rochester/.

Phone: 585-465-9191.

Interested in donating to the Rochester Chapter to support next years’ competition? Contact Roger Janezic at rochester@esuus.org

Elias Owens, a student of Regina Darling from Penfield High School, won the 2018 Rochester Shakespeare Competition. He then competed in the national competition and was awarded second place overall. Mr. Owens performed an excellent rendition of Parolles’ humorous speech on virginity from *All’s Well that Ends Well* as well his recital of Sonnet 29, “When, in disgrace with fortune and men’s eyes...”. His cold reading in the pressure-packed finals won him 2nd place in the nationals.

Elias Owens, Winner of 2018 Rochester Shakespeare Competition

Eli Owens performing Parolles’ speech during the National Shakespeare Competition on April 23, 2018 at Lincoln Center.
The Competitors

Penfield High School
Reese Stojanovski
Teacher: Regina Darling

Monologue: (#227) The Winter’s Tale, Paulina, 3.2.194-212
Sonnet: (#90) “Then hate me when thou wilt, if ever, now,...”

Allendale Columbia School
Claire Lustig
Teacher: Vincent Bissonette

Monologue: (#3) A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Helena, 1.1.232-252
Sonnet: (#18) “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”

School Runner-Up: Sasha Furdey

Webster-Thomas High School
Nico Pantojas
Teachers: Sheila Byrne and Mark Stoetzeli

Monologue: (#88) Julius Ceasar, Antony, 3.2.82-86(p), 94-113
Sonnet: (#14) “Not from the stars do I my judgment pluck,...”

School Runner-Up: Haley Warren

Roc the Sonnet

Promissory Notes
Phil Huffy

Compelling resolutions boldly made from thoughts intemperate or born of haste may find their loud insistence, once conveyed, forgotten soon and laid to quiet waste.

These annual expressions of resolve, though offered with enthusiastic style, are hopeful but unlikely to evolve to anything productive or worthwhile.

Though energized with eagerness and force and made without compulsion or duress, such stated plans are daring ones, of course, unlikely to result in much success.

But let those few whose promises ring true enjoy all benefits which may accrue.
The Competitors

Rush-Henrietta High School

Ashlie Morrison
Teacher: Laura Reed

Monologue: (#28) As You Like It, Rosalind, 3.5.47-67
Sonnet: (#134) “So, now I have confessed that he is thine”

School Runner-Up: Delaney Blair
School Third Place: Gillian Wurster

Spencerport High School

Samantha Ricotta
Teacher: Eric Runion

Sonnet: (#27) “Weary with toil, I haste me to my bed,....”

School Runner-Up: Bethany Ferguson
Also: Alexandra Battaglia, Viceli Figueroa, Addy Quimet, Beth Resch, Brianna Donnelly, Ella Voelkl, TJ Weaver, Sara Bonfiglio, Sydney Brongo, Emma Kane, Thomas Hager

Churchville-Chili Senior High School

Grace Alessi
Teacher: Mary Courtney

Monologue: (#145) Othello, Emilia, 4.3.97-115
Sonnet: (#24) “Mine eye hath played the painter and hath stelled...”

School Runner-Up: Madalyn Motsay
School Third Place: Helena Buttons
Roc the Sonnet was a new endeavor this year between the Rochester Shakespeare Competition and Writers & Books. The competition was a writing challenge in which participants composed an original sonnet and submitted it for judging. The challenge rules involve using the Shakespearean sonnet format. Participants were asked to employ three of five characteristics of a Shakespearean Sonnet:

1. Length of 14 lines.
2. Three quatrains (quatrain=four lines) followed by a couplet (=2 lines).
3. Verse of iambic pentameter.
4. Rhyming scheme: abab cdcd efef gg.
5. Thematic structure: A problem is presented in quatrains and resolved in the couplet.

Categories/Prizes: There were two overall categories – Adult and high school student. Each of the overall winners wins a $100 prize.

“Roc the Sonnet” judges

Thank you to the judges for your time and effort:
- Wendy Low, Poet and Writing Instructor
- Akua Lezli Hope, Poet
- Alicia Hoffman, Poet and High School English Teacher

Many thanks to the Writers & Books staff for their support!

The Competitors

The Harley School

Nate Zanin
Teacher: Maria Scipione

Monologue: (#10) A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Robin (Puck), 2.1.44-60
Sonnet: (#62) “Sin of self-love posseseth all mine eye…”

School Runner-Up: Oscar Wilcox

School of the Arts

Tali Beckwith-Cohen
Teacher: Marcy Gamzon

Monologue: (#77) Henry VI, Part 1, Pucelle, 1.2.73-93
Sonnet: (#140) “Be wise as thou art cruel; do not press....

School Runner-Up: Turon Parker