

## **2025 ESU National Shakespeare Competition**

### **Schedule of Events (*Saturday, April 26 - Monday, April 28*)**

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#### **Saturday, April 26**

**2:00 to 3:00 pm** – Arrival and registration at the English-Speaking Union National Headquarters, located at 144 East 39th Street (between 3rd and Lexington Avenues). Sandwiches and soft drinks will be served.

**3:00 to 3:30 pm** – Greetings and welcome from Karen Karpowich (ESU President & Executive Director), with additional remarks from Maryellen Liotta (NSC Program Manager) and Sean Hinckle (NSC Alum and Competition Coach).

**3:30 to 4:30 pm** – Ice-breaker performance workshop for students in the Garden Lounge. Parents and guests may enjoy refreshments or explore the Murray Hill neighborhood (walking maps provided). Parents and “Family & Friends Package” holders may then proceed to the Bus Tour pick-up location (one block away). Buses begin boarding at **4:45 pm**; the tour departs promptly at 5:00 pm.

**5:00 to 7:00 pm** – Guided Double-Decker Bus Tour of Manhattan.

**7:00 pm** – Buses return to ESU Headquarters. Students will be checked out by their authorized parent or guardian.

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#### **Sunday, April 27**

**2:30 to 3:00 pm** – Students, parents and guests arrive at the English-Speaking Union National Headquarters (144 East 39th Street). Tickets for the 6:30 pm performance of **& Juliet** will be distributed. Karen Karpowich (ESU President & Executive Director) and Alice Uhl (Director of International Scholarships, Shakespeare and Debate Programs).

**3:00 to 4:00 pm** – Students participate in an acting workshop in the Garden Lounge, led by Broadway veteran Stephen Buntrock.

**3:00 to 4:00 pm** – Teachers attend a professional development workshop with Drama Educator and ESU Curriculum Consultant Sammi Smith.

**4:00 to 5:00 pm** – Students, parents/guardians, and “Family & Friends Package” holders enjoy afternoon tea and sandwiches in the Garden Lounge.

**5:00 pm** – Parents/guardians escort students to the Stephen Sondheim Theatre at 124 West 43rd Street (between 6th Avenue and Broadway) for the evening’s performance.

**6:30 to 9:00 pm** – **& Juliet** at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre.

**9:00 pm** – Students depart the theatre with their parent/guardian.

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## **Monday, April 28**

**7:30 to 8:00 am** – Students and parents check in at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center (10th Floor, Samuel B. and David Rose Building, 165 West 65th Street – between Broadway & Amsterdam). *Take the escalator or elevator from street level to the building lobby. Contestant and guest names will be at the reception table.*

**8:00 to 8:30 am** - Audience is seated in the Kaplan Penthouse

**8:30 am to 1:00 pm** – *Semi-Final Round:* All 42 contestants will perform their monologues and sonnets. Performances will be divided into three 60-minute sessions, with 15-minute breaks between each.

**1:00 to 3:00 pm** – Parents and guests break for lunch on their own. Judges deliberate to select the Top 10 Finalists. Students will have lunch at the Juilliard cafeteria and proceed to the Lincoln Center Fountain for a group photo.

**3:00 pm** – Students return to the Kaplan Penthouse. The names of the Top 10 Finalists will be announced and posted outside the theater doors.

**3:00 to 4:00 pm** – Finalists rehearse for the Final Round.

**3:30 to 4:00 pm** - Audience is seated in the Kaplan Penthouse

**4:00 to 6:00 pm** – *Final Round:* The Top 10 Finalists perform. Judges deliberate for approximately 30 minutes. All students will be recognized and receive certificates from ESU leadership. Awards will be presented to the First, Second, and Third Place winners. Branch coordinators and teachers will also be acknowledged. The competition concludes, and attendees exit the theater.

**6:00 pm** – **Competition Weekend Concludes**