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**NASHVILLE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL'S 'SHAKESPEARE ALLOWED!'
READING OF RICHARD THE THIRD**

Nashvillians invited to read play before its premier at Troutt Theater

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Dec. 23, 2008 – [The Nashville Shakespeare Festival](#) announced they will be reading [Richard the Third](#) on Jan. 3 as a precursor to the company's 2nd Annual Winter Shakespeare production [Belmont University's Troutt Theater. Shakespeare Allowed!](#) is an ambitious project to gather lovers of the bard once a month over the next three years to read all of Shakespeare's plays aloud.

"We are reading the plays in the order they were written, and it just so happens that Richard the Third is next," said Denice Hicks, artistic director for the Nashville Shakespeare Festival. "It's a great opportunity to read the full text aloud before seeing our edited and interpreted production live beginning Jan. 15."

Shakespeare Allowed! participants will meet on Sat., Jan. 3 from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. at the [downtown main library](#). Shakespeare Allowed! is a free event, open to the public.

Shakespeare's story of a cruel yet charismatic villain will be brought to life with a Vaudeville twist at Belmont University Troutt Theater from Jan. 15 through Feb. 1. Tickets to the play's public performances are now on sale at www.ticketnashville.com. Teachers interested in Richard the Third school matinees should contact education director Claire Syler at claire@nashvilleshakes.org. For more information about the Nashville Shakespeare Festival's production of Richard The Third, visit www.nashvilleshakes.org.

About Nashville Shakespeare Festival

The mission of the Nashville Shakespeare Festival is to educate and entertain the Mid-South community through professional Shakespearean experiences. The Festival accomplishes this primarily through its public productions of Shakespeare in the Park in the summer and Winter Shakespeare at The Troutt Theater and its educational workshops for young people and businesses.

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