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**NASHVILLE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES  
'SHAKESPEARE ALLOWED!'  
Nashvillians Invited to Participate in Shakespeare Readings**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – Oct. 6, 2008 – The Nashville Shakespeare Festival has taken on a task that some may find daunting. Shakespeare Allowed! will gather lovers of the bard once a month over the next three years to read all of Shakespeare's plays aloud

"We're going to start with *Henry VI Part I*, and end with *The Two Noble Kinsmen*," said Claire Syler, education director for the Nashville Shakespeare Festival. "Shakespeare's plays were meant to be read aloud, and we're excited to hear them read in the voices of the people of Nashville."

Shakespeare Allowed! participants will meet monthly to read his plays in chronological order, beginning with *Henry VI Part I* and ending in November of 2011 with *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. The readings are free and open to the public, and anyone who would like to read aloud is invited to do so. The first Shakespeare Allowed reading is October 11 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m at the downtown main library.

"We are excited about this collaboration with The Nashville Public Library and look forward to more literary partners on similar projects," said Nancy VanReece, executive director of the Nashville Shakespeare Festival.

Other scheduled programs so far are *Henry VI Part II* on November 1 and *Henry VI Part III* on December 6, both at the downtown main library.

For more information about the Nashville Shakespeare Festival's Shakespeare Allowed! program, visit <http://nashvilleshakes.org/shakespeareallowed.htm>.

**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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