Shakespeare & Violence Prevention in Colorado Schools

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Project Description: 2026-2027

The **Colorado Shakespeare Festival** is proud to collaborate with the **Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence** and the **Department of Theatre & Dance** at CU Boulder on a Shakespeare & Violence Prevention school program. Since 2011, the program has reached more than 140,000 Colorado schoolchildren. The aim of this program is two-fold: first, *to introduce students to the complexity and beauty of Shakespeare's work*; second, to *spark discussions in Colorado schools about becoming an upstander, bullying behavior, school safety, and the cycle of violence*. Theatre is a tremendous catalyst for self-discovery, and our hope is that this program allows community members—students, teachers, parents, and administrators—to understand how violence works and how to reduce it.



Abridged Performance

Students attend an abridged Shakespeare play performed by professional actors onsite at their school. Each performance concludes with a brief talkback to discuss the violence and mistreatment in the play and share violence prevention resources.

Workshops

After the performance, CSF actors lead classroom workshops about violence prevention, in which students roleplay alternatives to violence, practice upstander behavior, and participate in empathy-building exercises. Theatre is a powerful way for students to learn about teamwork, empathy, and their ability to make a difference in their communities.



The program includes:

- Abridged performance of a Shakespeare play
- Post-show classroom workshop(s), facilitated by actors
- Study guide for teachers (aligned with Education Standards and available in English and Spanish)
- Check-out meeting with school counselor to debrief

Offerings (Sept 2026-April 2027)

Julius Caesar grades 6-12

The Comedy of Errors grades 3-5

Packages start at $700
Subsidies available

To schedule:
https://cupresents.org/csf-school-tour-sign-up
csfedout@colorado.edu | 303.735.1181

Learn more tools with the book:

Shakespeare & Violence Prevention: A Practical Handbook for Educators

More information: https://cupresents.org/event/10050/shakespeare/csf-schools/