

# THE KINGSMEN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

## Kingsmen Shakespeare Company Organization History

In 1997, a collaboration between Santa Susana Repertory Theatre Company and the Drama Department at California Lutheran University produced the first Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival in Kingsmen Park on the campus of California Lutheran University. The first Festival featured a three-weekend run of Shakespeare's *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*. The Festival was offered "free" to the public.

Due to the success of that first Festival, the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company was formed as a not-for-profit organization. KSC holds special contracts with Actors Equity Association (AEA) and is a member of the Shakespeare Theatre Association (STA) and the Institute of Outdoor Drama. Kingsmen Shakespeare Company is the professional theatre company of California Lutheran University.

### KSC PROGRAMS

#### The Summer Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival - 22nd Season

The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company and California Lutheran University have co-produced the Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival, performed in Kingsmen Park on the campus of California Lutheran University since 1997. Two productions are offered each summer in modified repertory for a six weekend run. An estimated average audience of 8,000 attend each year's Festival.

#### Shakespeare Educational Tour

KSC has collaborated with the City of Thousand Oaks Arts Commission and the Conejo Valley Unified School District to deliver to elementary schools in the region a program of workshops and performances supplemented by lesson units. The SET program is presented each spring 15-25 area elementary schools. Approximately 30,000 K-6 students have participated in the sixteen years of the program.

#### Apprentice Programs

KSC has offered opportunities for high school, college and university students through its tiered apprentice program attached to the Summer Festival. High school students can become junior apprentices and perform during pre-show activities. Interns provide the core of the production and support staff of the Festival and are primarily drawn from the CLU student body. Apprentices are recruited nationally from college and university theatre programs throughout the country through a competitive audition process.

#### Camp Shakespeare

KSC and California Lutheran University offer Camp Shakespeare each summer for kids ages 8-18. The camp offers acting classes and performance opportunities.