

The Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival

John C. Slade Apprentice Company

4-6 Acting Apprentices



The Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival Apprentice Company is an excellent opportunity for young actors and technicians to train with and gain valuable experience working with an established Equity Acting Company.

The Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival was established in 1997 and has received high regional theatre acclaim from the Los Angeles area theatre critics. Performing on the beautiful grounds of Kingsmen Park on the campus of California Lutheran University, the Festival draws crowds from all over Southern California. In 2025 close to 5,000 people attended the Festival.

Audiences come not only for the exceptional theatre experience but to enjoy a picnic during a pre-show of music, dance, and improvisational comedy.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Act in both of the Festival mainstage shows - *A Midsummer Night's Dream* June 19 - July 5, and *Hamlet* July 10 - July 26, 2026.
- Understudy one AEA role in each of the productions.
- Performer in the improvisation-based Greenshow performed each performance night.
- Additional support duties (depending upon special skills)
- Assist in the setup, changeover, and strike of Festival production (first week of site build, **changeover week**, and **strike week**).
- Teaching or assisting in the Summer Theatre Acting Camps or with the Rhodes Junior Apprentice Program.
- Possession of personal or family health insurance policy

Typical Schedule, Acting Apprentices:

- The acting apprentice company works six days a week (Mondays are designated as Equity day-off).
- Technical work: to be done the first week of contract,

change-over week, and during strike week (additional tech duties will be specially contracted).

- 9 a.m.—12 p.m. followed by 1 hour lunch
- 1 p.m.—3 p.m.
- Teachersassistants (Not all acting apprentices will teach in Camp Shakespeare every day for the full day. When not working in Camp, they will be developing class plans or Greenshow activities). Camp hours, M-F, 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.
- Greenshow rehearsal/Master Classes: 4—6 p.m and/or weekends.
- Mainstage rehearsals: 7 p.m.—11 p.m.
- On performance nights call is 4 p.m. for site preparation; site cleanup immediately after performance for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

Compensation

- Free housing (dormitory or other campus housing shared with other apprentices and professional staff).
- \$125 per week food reimbursement.
- Since apprentices will be performing with an Actor's Equity Association Company, they will be eligible to apply for AEA membership at the end of the season.
- Various Master classes will be offered by senior company members who are working professionals in the L.A. area.

Length of Employment - 10 weeks

Responsibilities for apprentices begin Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 12 noon and they will be released on Friday, July 31, 2026 at noon.

For further information contact:

Michael Arndt
arndt@callutheran.edu
805-390-2022

