

SOMETHING ROTTEN!

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Book by **Karey Kirkpatrick** and **John O'Farrell**
Music and Lyrics by **Wayne Kirkpatrick** and **Karey Kirkpatrick**
Conceived by **Karey Kirkpatrick** and **Wayne Kirkpatrick**
Directed and Choreographed by **Donna Feore**
Music Director **Laura Burton**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION:

Grade 8+

CONTENT ADVISORY

The show includes some mature subject matter including sexual innuendo and explorations of homophobia and sexism. It also includes coarse language. [Please see the show page for a detailed audience advisory.](#)

SYNOPSIS

The Bottom brothers, two struggling playwrights in Renaissance London, need a hit. That's easier said than done when your chief competition is William Shakespeare. The Bottom brothers' plan: write the world's first musical! This is a rollicking song-and-dance extravaganza that sends up the Bard and Broadway and everything in between.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Metacognition

GRADE 8

- The Arts
- Language
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies, History and Geography

GRADE 9-12

- The Arts
- Canadian and World Studies
- English
- Technological Education

GRADE 11-12

- Social Sciences and Humanities

POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, English, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, History, Human Rights, Music, Social Development Studies, Teacher Education and Theatre

THEMES

- Confidence vs. Arrogance
- Courage
- Creative Expression
- Identity and Self-Discovery
- The Joy of Musical Theatre
- Love and Relationships
- Parody and Satire
- Persistence and Determination
- The Price of Success
- Reaching a Goal
- Rivalry and Competition
- Theatrical Conventions
- "To Thine Own Self Be True"
- The Wonder of Shakespeare
- Writers and Writing

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to "be true to yourself"? What are the challenges of doing so?
- Would you consider yourself to be competitive? Are there certain situations that bring out a more competitive side in you? Why do you think this is?
- What do you know about Shakespeare, his plays and his time? What musical theatre tropes do you know? What expectations do you have about a musical featuring Shakespeare?
- What do you find funny? What styles of comedy appeal to you? Why do you think this is the case?
- Do you think humour can be used to explore deep or complex issues? Why or why not?

STUDY GUIDES

Study Guides for selected 2024 productions are available free of charge online:

<https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/Learn/Teachers/ResourcesPD>

Email educate@stratfordfestival.ca for access to past study guides.

**BOOKING INFORMATION: STUDENT MATINÉES,
 INTERACTIVE PRESHOWS, WORKSHOPS & CHATS**

STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, April 16
- Thursday, April 25
- Thursday, May 2
- Tuesday, May 7
- Thursday, May 9
- Monday, May 13
- Wednesday, May 15
- Thursday, May 23
- Thursday, May 30
- Thursday, June 6
- Friday, June 7
- Wednesday, June 12
- Tuesday, June 18
- Friday, June 21
- Thursday, September 5
- Tuesday, September 10
- Friday, September 13
- Wednesday, September 18
- Friday, September 20
- Tuesday, September 24
- Thursday, October 3
- Tuesday, October 8
- Thursday, October 10
- Thursday, October 17
- Wednesday, October 23

INTERACTIVE PRESHOWS

Led by artists appearing in the matinée, these high-energy sessions provide students the opportunity to explore key themes, questions and technical aspects of productions on the Festival’s renowned stages. \$4 per student (free for Teaching Stratford Program participants)

11 a.m. – noon on the following dates:

- Thursday, May 2
- Thursday, May 9
- Wednesday, May 15
- Thursday, May 23
- Thursday, June 6
- Tuesday, September 24
- Thursday, October 3
- Thursday, October 10* Technical Theatre-Focused: Rather than exploring the play’s themes, characters and questions, this session focuses on technical theatre and is ideal for students interested in the inner workings of theatre production and understanding the magic that happens back/offstage.
- Thursday, October 17
- Wednesday, October 23

stratfordfestival.ca/InterACTives

WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing educate@stratfordfestival.ca.

Pre-Show Workshops customized to your students’ needs and interests are available from 10–11 a.m. or 11 a.m.–noon before selected matinées.

\$10 per student
stratfordfestival.ca/Workshops

Half-Hour Post-Show Chats with cast and creative team members are available after selected matinées.

\$3 per student
stratfordfestival.ca/Chats

SOCIAL MEDIA



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Tools for Teachers includes Prologues, Study Guides and Stratford Shorts.

PROUD SEASON PARTNER



The 2024 season is generously supported by Ophelia Lazaridis.

Production Co-Sponsor 

Support for the 2024 season of the Festival Theatre is generously provided by Daniel Bernstein & Claire Foerster.

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