

Oh my goodness!!!

Words cannot express how pleased, excited, and tickled I am with this entire past weekend's events surrounding Shakespeare in the Park!!!

Everything from the performance of Romeo & Juliet to meeting the entire cast afterwards to the brunch with Renee was well beyond my wildest dreams! The location of the brunch was AMAZING, the host and hostesses were so gracious, visiting with other fans and getting to know them better was so fun, and chatting with Renee, Miles, Steve was absolutely the icing on the cake!

Renee has come to know me and my daughter by our first names now, and Renee's Mom, Sandra, is an absolutely gracious and sweet lady. Renee was gracious enough to do a short video for yet another fan who could not attend and Elana Francis is absolutely thrilled with the video!

I cannot thank you all enough for all of your hard work, dedication and commitment to Southern Shakespeare Company and rest assured my daughter and I will be back for next year's performance! This was the most amazing and exciting weekend I have ever spent and one that will hold a very special place in my heart!!!

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Mary Miller

113 Rio Verde Drive

Belleville, Illinois 62221

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kathleen and Robert Fedore <[mykatybug@hotmail.com](mailto:mykatybug@hotmail.com)>

Date: Tue, May 15, 2018, 4:35 PM

Subject: Re: Congrats and apologies...

To: Phil Croton <[phil@southernshakes.org](mailto:phil@southernshakes.org)>

Hello Phil!

It was lovely to meet you as well! I am so happy that you liked our costuming! You looked wonderful yourself! I thought the metal studs on your sleeves were a very nice touch. Historically accurate AND rock'n roll at the same time!

It was my first foray into making that type of outfit, and it was a wonderful learning experience. I have new respect for the tailors and seamstresses of that era, to be sure. I think it is amazing how many Renaissance style fabrics masquerade as curtains from the Goodwill store, if you know what to look for!

No problem about the voucher, you totally had your hands full. Please don't bother sending it to me, I would much rather the money stay within the coffers of the organization. I think you are doing tremendous good work!

Writing the sonnet, researching and making the clothing, and attending the festival was for the purpose of interesting my homeschooled daughter in Shakespeare. I really wanted to bring it to life for her. If she was in public school, she would be starting middle school, when his works are usually presented. I recall my own experience with first learning Shakespeare, and it was taught by a worn and weary man, counting the days to his retirement. It all felt dry and distant. I did not want that for my daughter.

So then I received the best Mother's Day gift ever! Please allow me to share this story with you. We had ended up leaving at intermission on Saturday because my daughter felt overtired. Then on Sunday as we were preparing for a dinner out, she told me how much she regretted leaving early, how badly she wanted to see the end but would be content with reading it. She about leapt off the bed when I told her there would be a second performance in two hours! We dropped everything, found a few fun costume pieces around the house, and flew down to Cascades with an hour to spare! We enjoyed the whole experience again!

My daughter was on the edge of her seat with eyes like saucers for the whole play. Then in the car on the way home, I was surprised to hear a quiet weeping from the back seat. I asked her if she was sad that Romeo and Juliet died. She said, "No! I'm crying because the play was just (sob) so (sob) beautiful (shuddering sob)!!!"

That was my Mother's Day gift, right there.

So Phil, thank you and the others in your organization for all the effort you put into this wonderful event. From the beyond excellent stage production all the way down to choosing the most personable food vendors. It was a wonderful experience for our family, and an excellent foundation for my daughter's education.

Oh! I must apologize to you for not being willing to read my own sonnet. I should have! A bit of stage fright took me by surprise. Although, I will confess that I was looking forward to hearing it read in your lovely accent!

Forgive the length of this email, but I have one more request. Could you provide me with some information about what might be available for my daughter with your organization? She is attending musical theater classes with a group in Tallahassee, but has many times voiced to me how seriously she takes her acting, and that musicals, giant fake stage smiles, and show dancing are just not her forte. She loves comedy but doesn't want the silliness. Weeping over Shakespeare has definitely given me a clue that I need to try a different approach!

Thank you for your patience with my long email, and I look forward to meeting you again in the future!

Most sincerely,

Kathleen Fedore

To: Laura W. Johnson <[laura@southernshakes.org](mailto:laura@southernshakes.org)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Valarie Stewart <[vstew03@gmail.com](mailto:vstew03@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, May 15, 2018 at 11:32 PM

Subject: Thank you

To: Laura W. Johnson <[laura@southernshakes.org](mailto:laura@southernshakes.org)>

Just want to say thank you again for such a memorial experience. I will carry that whole day around in my heart forever. I keep thanking the universe for giving me the opportunity to meet so many amazing people, I have never been in a room and felt so much love and positive energy and you we're a big part of that. I never thought in a million years that I would get to meet Renee in such an intimate setting and get to spend actual time with her. I have to say Renee is and will always be someone that I look up to because of the way she exudes such quite grace and kindness and a heart filled with love. Laura you are just as special and it was beyond a pleasure to meet you. In closing Steven and Miles (Miles and Iris are a testament to growing up in a home filled with positive energy and love, what phenomenal kids) were the icing on the cake. The play was the best theater production I have had the pleasure of seeing, every one involved should be extremely proud. I hope to see you at the next production, Tallahassee is only 2 1/2 hours away. Thanks again my friend for everything and for sharing, I'm sorry for the loss of your brother, I don't think I said that to you. I actually felt moments of joy on Saturday for



the first time in a very long time.

□

(sorry It's so long).