

# The Colorado Shakespeare Festival

E D U C A T I O N O U T R E A C H

FAST FACTS

ON

## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

- ❖ Keep Them Wanting More
  - ❖ Shakespeare wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets. In spite of all this, not a single letter or journal entry exists, leaving us with little insight into his life.
  
- ❖ You Never Know What You Have Until It's Gone
  - ❖ Shakespeare never saw the publication of his complete works during his life. Hemming and Condell compiled all the scripts into the First Folio in 1623, seven years after his death.
  
- ❖ Was Will a Queen?
  - ❖ While it is generally accepted that Shakespeare did indeed write the plays, there was great debate over his authorship. Some of the candidates for authorship are Sir Francis Bacon, the Earl of Oxford, and Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth.
  
- ❖ What's in a name?
  - ❖ Spelling in Elizabethan England was quite erratic. Here are some variations on Will's name: Shagspere, Shackper, Shaxper, and Shakspear
  
- ❖ "Fore God, my lord, well spoken, with good accent and good discretion"
  - ❖ When Shakespeare tread the boards he took upon himself the smaller roles like the Ghost in *Hamlet* and the Chorus in *Henry V*.
  
- ❖ He's Got the Whole World in his Hands
  - ❖ It is believed that Shakespeare was part owner of the Globe theatre since his name appears on a 1599 lease for the building.
  
- ❖ He "should have died hereafter; / There would have been time for such a word."
  - ❖ Shakespeare died on April 23, 1616. He was buried at Holy Trinity Church in his birthplace Stratford-on-the-Avon.