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**Junior Players Presents *Crowns of Power: Henry IV***  
August 1 - 6, 2023

DALLAS, TX, July 5, 2023 - Junior Players is excited to return to the Samuell-Grand Park Amphitheatre stage this summer to present *Crowns of Power: Henry IV*, in collaboration with Shakespeare Dallas. This production is a combination of Shakespeare's *Henry IV Part 1* and *Henry IV Part 2*, created by Director Montgomery Sutton, and features, for the first time in the 33 year-old history of this program, professional adult actors alongside teen participants.

Performances will be August 1 - 6, 2023 at the Samuell-Grand Park Amphitheatre (1500 Tenison Parkway Dallas, TX 75223). The gates will open at 7:30pm and the show will begin at 8:00pm each night.

This production features 25 North Texas' most talented high school students from 14 different high schools, as well as three professional adult actors – two of whom are Junior Players' alumni. Set in a kingdom plagued with rebellion, treachery, and shifting alliances in the period following the deposition of King Richard II, the two parts of *Henry IV* focus especially on the development of Prince Hal (later Henry V) from wastrel to ruler rather than on the title character. Hal struggles between choosing the court life that his father, Henry IV, so desperately wants him to inherit and the rowdy tomfoolery and fun that Falstaff and his friends attempt to sway him towards instead. Hilarious, touching, and dealing with universal themes of family, power, and honor, this show is a can't miss!

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting [www.juniorplayers.org/tickets](http://www.juniorplayers.org/tickets). The Tuesday and Wednesday night performances will be free of charge. Tickets are \$15 General Admission, \$10 Student/Senior for the Thursday through Sunday night performances. Tickets will be sold at the door via card payments only; cash will not be accepted. While at the park, masks will be encouraged but not required.

*Crowns of Power: Henry IV* is sponsored, in part, by City of Dallas: Office of Arts and Culture, Holloway Family Foundation, Diane and Hal Brierley Foundation, Fichtenbaum Charitable Trust, George Family Foundation - Next Generation Fund, Moody Fund for the Arts, TACA, Texas Commission on the Arts, McKinney Arts Commission, The Hersh Foundation, Rea Charitable Trust, Harold Simmons Foundation, The Addy Foundation, Louise e. Kahn, PalterGeist Memorial Fund, Courtney Kincaid Memorial Fund, WFAA, Emily Javadi Memorial Fund, Southern Methodist University: Meadows School of the Arts.

Now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, the Junior Players' Discover Shakespeare program, produced in collaboration with Shakespeare Dallas, has become a mainstay in the North Texas cultural scene. This production of Shakespeare, performed entirely by young adults ages fifteen to nineteen, has provided hundreds of students with real hands-on professional theatrical training, at no cost to the participants, and has introduced thousands of young audience members to Shakespeare.

Junior Players was founded in 1955 and is the oldest non-profit children's theater organization in Dallas. Over its existence, Junior Players has striven to meet the changing needs of the community. From 1955 to 1989, Junior Players presented traditional children's theater productions performed entirely by children and teenagers. In 1989, the Board of Directors changed the focus of Junior Players activities, deciding that Junior Players can best serve the youth of Dallas by providing free programming accessible to all the children of North Texas. Junior Players therefore exclusively provides free arts education programs in local recreation and cultural centers, housing projects, elementary and middle schools, and through social service agencies serving youth at risk.

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