

# 2016 Summer Theater Intensive at Wakefield High School

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APRIL 2016

“WILL YOU BE MY HOME?”

## SUMMER THEATER INTENSIVE TO WORKSHOP “FOR TONIGHT: A NEW MUSICAL” WITH AUTHORS

The Summer Theater Intensive is excited to announce that it has been selected to produce and workshop *For Tonight: A New Musical* for its Summer 2016 programming. *For Tonight* is being workshopped for professional productions, with an eye on Broadway and the West End.

The program will run June 27-July 30 and is open to incoming ninth-grade students through graduating seniors. Previous casts include students from Wakefield, Reading, North Reading, Saugus, and Manchester. Audition information and technical applications will be available on April 20. Students will learn from area professionals in the areas of sound, lighting, costume, makeup, and scenic design. The Intensive will be held at Wakefield High School. For more information, visit [www.wakefieldtheater.org](http://www.wakefieldtheater.org).

Powerfully told through the eyes of musicians, *For Tonight* interweaves magic, reality, and fate. It challenges prejudices, family relationships, and what it means to embrace the unknown. Through a riveting indie-rock/folk score, *For Tonight* explores the indelible power of home.

*For Tonight* is written by Whitney Rhodes, Shenelle Williams, and Spencer Williams. The production marks Shenelle and Spencer’s Boston debut as the musical theater writers move to the East Coast from California.

“I’m thrilled that *For Tonight* will be performed by students known for theatrical excellence,” said composer, Shenelle Williams. “Our collaboration, combined with the vibrant energy of the show will not only further the development of the piece but give the students a taste of what it’s like to develop new material in the professional world.”

“We’re always looking for new challenges for our students and I can’t wait to introduce our students to the world of workshopping a new musical” according to director, Will Karvouniaris. “The students will be able to work side by side with the authors as they add new songs, change lines of script, and further develop characters. This collaboration is one of the most exciting things happening in the world of theater. Every new show on Broadway goes through a workshop phase. Our students will be able to work with something completely new and make it their own. They’ll be able to leave their mark on this work--forever.”

“We started writing *For Tonight* in the German Alps in the summer of 2013. In 2014, it was featured at the New York Musical Festival and then last year further developed at Goodspeed Musicals, Michigan State University and Isle of Man’s Theatrefest,” explains writer, Spencer Williams. “It’s a special piece of theatre to me because it’s inspired by my great-great-great grandfather’s journals. It has been a gift to reconnect to my family heritage through this process. *For Tonight* has had an incredible journey, and we are excited to include Wakefield into our *For Tonight* family.”

*For Tonight* will be directed by Will Karvouniaris with music direction by Ana Morel. Technical theater programming will be directed by Allison Kane. Additional staffing and casting will be announced at a later date. Tickets will be on sale July 1. For more information, visit [www.wakefieldtheater.org](http://www.wakefieldtheater.org) or email [theater@wpsk12.org](mailto:theater@wpsk12.org).

### **ABOUT WHSTA AND THE SUMMER 2016 PROGRAM**

Wakefield High School Theater Arts is an award-winning high school theater program that produces four annual productions. In 2015, Wakefield was named one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation.

For more information, visit [www.wakefieldtheater.org](http://www.wakefieldtheater.org).

### **ABOUT WHITNEY RHODES**

Whitney works as a theatre performer, educator and administrator in the Twin Cities area. She has been seen on the stages of Theater Latte Da, Minnetonka Theatre, Minnesota Fringe Festival and Park Square Theatre and is an artistic associate with The Catalysts Theatre Company. She is the creator and performer of a series of one-woman cabarets including "Where's My Parade", "The Could Be Project", and "Let Hope Win". Proud Drake University alum and homegrown Nebraskan.

### **ABOUT SPENCER AND SHENELLE WILLIAMS**

Shenelle & Spencer started writing music together when they formed their indie-rock band, Missus & Mister, in 2008. Soon after, they after released their self-titled EP on iTunes and began playing shows around the San Francisco Bay Area. During one concert, an audience member commented, "Your music has a theatrical quality to it. Have you ever thought about writing for musical theatre?" As music directors and avid lovers of musical theatre, Shenelle and Spencer could only laugh and comment that yes, they had thought about it but were looking for the story that would sing to them.

In 2012, Shenelle & Spencer found their story and wrote their first full-length original musical, *For Tonight*. It has been produced at the New York Musical Theatre Festival (July 2014), The Goodspeed Festival of New Musicals (January 2015), Michigan State University's ImaGen Program (October 2015) and on the Isle of Man at Theatrefest '15. There will also be a production of it in the summer of 2016 at The Barn Stage Company in Temecula, CA. *For Tonight* has been recognized as a finalist in the New Horizons Music Festival and nominated for Best New Work in the 2015 Connecticut Broadway World.com's Theatre Awards.

"One Step (Don't Forget Me)", a song from *For Tonight*, has been nominated for the 'Drewe & Stiles: Top 10 Best Song' and was performed at the Garrick Theatre (West End), London, in May 2015.

Beyond *For Tonight*, Shenelle and Spencer are working on three new original musicals: *Luz y Amor*, *The Whaley House*, and *A Trip to Bruges: A Ghostly Tale*.

For more information, visit [www.shenelleandspencer.com](http://www.shenelleandspencer.com).