

COMMUNITY CORNER

Developing Responsible, Respectful and Prepared Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 5, 2024

Horizon Youth Theatre Ensemble and Banning High School Drama Club to Host Oregon Shakespeare Festival School Visit Program

BANNING, CA — Horizon Youth Theatre Ensemble and Banning High School Drama Club proudly hosted two actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) on November 5, 2024, welcoming Tegan Kelley and Cole Song to bring live theatre directly to Banning students. As part of OSF's renowned School Visit Program, the actors will perform captivating excerpts from Shakespearean works and other classical and contemporary literature in an assembly setting, followed by engaging, hands-on workshops designed to introduce students to the art of theatre.

Relaunched after a pandemic hiatus, OSF's School Visit Program has a long-standing mission to bring the magic of live theatre to students across the country, many experiencing it for the first time. Since its inception over 40 years ago, the program has reached hundreds of thousands of students, inspiring a lasting appreciation for Shakespeare and the performing arts.

The School Visit Program aims to immerse students in interactive learning, with the Horizon Youth Theatre Ensemble and Banning High School Drama Club collaborating to create an inclusive, hands-on theatre experience. The day's events included:

- **Live Performances:** Tegan Kelley and Cole Song will present a range of scenes, blending classic and modern works.
- **Workshops:** Following each performance, students will participate in two one-hour workshops that explore Shakespearean texts and theatrical expression, fostering personal connections to the literature.

This program aligns with Horizon Youth Theatre Ensemble's commitment to supporting young theatre artists and cultivating a sense of belonging, inclusion, and creativity within the Banning Unified School District. The 2024 School Visit Program is generously funded by the Starseed Foundation, Steven and Karen Tyler, and the Swigert Foundation.

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This collaboration demonstrates Banning's dedication to enriching students' educational experiences through the arts, supported by Horizon Youth Theatre Ensemble, Banning High School Drama Club, and the San Geronio Education Foundation.

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