

"Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau" is a theatrical play about the last two days Henry David Thoreau spent in his cabin at Walden Pond.

This two-act, one-set, four-character play is designed for use by high schools and college. The script and play materials **plus a customized lesson plan** will be sent via the website **FREE OF CHARGE** to 10,000 schools in the USA and Canada for national performance as an EarthDay 2007 event. (The play can be performed at times other than EarthDay.)

Thoreau is America's original "tree hugger" and forefather of our environmental movement. Yet, the generation in schools now often do not know of Thoreau. He was a gentle naturalist, earth lover, author, pencil maker ... and is the most quoted American writer in history. Yet, when he passed, he was better known for having helped market the pencil than for a single word he wrote with it.

Why are Thoreau and this play relevant to students in 2007?

Aside from the massive educational nature of this project, consider the EarthDay event, literature, environmental and science tie-ins plus conservation. Certainly Thoreau matches the imagery of what EarthDay means worldwide. **"In an age of global warming, bio-fuels, hybrid cars and oil wars,"** says play author Michael Johnathon from his farmhouse home in Kentucky, **"the script can introduce students to Thoreau as well as environmental concerns in their own home towns at a time when, frankly, they need it."**

How can my school and my students participate?

The national event of the performance of Walden on EarthDay 2007 can effectively support Thoreau's valuable legacy and earth-minded educators. Again, the use and performance of this original stage play **is free to any school wishing to participate**. It can be as small as a classroom (the two acts are 35 minutes long each) or in front of hundreds in the school theatre/auditorium. Educators can simply download all the scripts, music and promotion materials from our website ... put on a show and have a great time!

Walden: Play FAQs

How do I get a copy of the Walden Play and lesson plan?

Beginning October 15, 2006, educators can go to our website with a provided password to access the teacher's page of the site. There you will be able to simply download the play as a 55-page PDF.

How do I get the password?

By visiting the website (www.waldenplay.com) or email producer@waldenplay.com you will have access to the complete script, director/actor instructions, posters, production music and voice-over tracks, a draft of a high school level lesson plan, and an easy eight-page theater program you can use during your performance. Another way is to FAX us on school stationary 859-225-4020. ALWAYS INCLUDE your name, grade, school name, school address and phone number in your email or fax request. This is completely FREE to educators. All downloads are in PDF format and you can print them from any computer.

Can we invite the public?

Yes, of course.

Can we charge tickets as a fund raiser?

Yes, you can.

Would we owe royalties if we charge a ticket to the public?

No, the play is free for your use and a gift from the author to the schools.

How can we promote the play?

The WaldenPlay website has a section for teachers to use. It has pre-designed posters, handbills, radio PSA scripts plus an 8-page Walden Play Program. The program is essentially four 8 1/2" by 11" sheets of paper, folded. The artwork is already laid out for you.

Can we sell ads in the provided program?

Yes, you can. Simply print out the PDF documents from our website, sell your ad to a local business, paste the ad onto the provided spaces in the program layout, and print as many copies as you need.

Does the play HAVE to be performed on Earth Day?

The play is uniquely designed to tie-in with Earth Day, environmental and nature themes that many schools already have on their schedules. Producing the play on Earth Day can associate your school into the national momentum of Earth Day ... very helpful to students. However, the subject of the play and Thoreau makes the production suitable all year long. The setting of the play itself takes place in September, the month Thoreau left the cabin. Some schools and theatres might prefer to produce the play in the autumn. Some schools might have better promotion and production accessibility in the winter months. The producers understand that performance schedules can change from school to school, theatre to theatre.

Does the Play have to be performed in a Theatre?

The production can be as intimate as a classroom or as spacious as a local theatre.