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### Brush up your Shakespeare

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SALEM — This Thursday is William Shakespeare's 447th birthday, and the Bard of Avon hasn't lost a step. What better way to celebrate than by reciting from his works?

To honor the greatest poet in the English language, the Salem Theatre Company hosts an annual "Shakespeare Open Mic," and this year it will again be held at Gulu-Gulu Cafe at 247 Essex St., on the corner of Washington Street in downtown Salem.

You don't have to be an actor to participate. You don't have to be prepared. You don't have to memorize anything or even know what you want to read, because there will be scripts on hand to choose from.

But if you've ever been possessed by a soliloquy of Hamlet's, or the banter of Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and wanted to try your hand at declaiming them, the stage will be yours on Thursday, starting at 8 p.m.

You can even recite one of the sonnets if you want to, or "Venus and Adonis."

All that is required is to sign up at the main table. Readers will perform in a first-come, first-served order.

The evening is free for all.

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