

The Bard in The Park

Written by Mark Shaffer

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"You haven't heard Shakespeare until you've heard it in the original Klingon."

Chancellor Gorkon, *Star Trek VI*

Revenge of The Bard

Voltaire once wrote, "Shakespeare is a drunken savage with some imagination whose plays please only in London and Canada." He may have slightly underestimated Shakespeare's appeal and longevity. It's been said that the sun never sets on the works of William Shakespeare – that at any given moment somewhere in the world his words are being spoken in nearly every language known to man. There are hundreds of festivals devoted to the works of The Bard worldwide. In fact, it's quite possible that Voltaire not only misjudged the playwright's international appeal, but his interstellar popularity as well. The Washington Shakespeare Company recently presented "By Any Other Name: An Evening of Shakespeare in Klingon" with *Star Trek's* original Mr. Sulu, George Takei. The sell-out event featured a scene from Hamlet. In case you were wondering, the Melancholy Dane's burning question looks like this: "taH pagh, taHbe?"

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