Shakespeare After Words is conceived and directed by Robert W. Smith, a nationally known theatre professional and Shakespearean scholar.

Smith is completing a three-week residency at Kent where he is working with students to create this unique piece. In song, sonnets, scenes, and speeches Kent students explore brilliant philosophy and gorgeous language as Shakespeare writes about life, death, and beyond with humor and poignancy. With extraordinary perception William Shakespeare seems to look through the telescope of time to mourn with us the loss of four students and of our innocence. Twenty-one actors become kings, queens, soldiers, musicians, children, thieves and beggars with vibrancy and heart.
Smith began his professional relationship with the plays of Shakespeare as a teenager at the American Shakespeare Festival under the tutelage of John Houseman. By the time Smith was 18 years old, he had experience as a technical staffer, an actor and special assistant to the director on 12 major mountings of Shakespeare.

In 1979, Smith left a very successful 15-year career as a painter to re-explore his relationship with the work of Shakespeare. He was asked to teach a class to a group of American actors who had minimal Shakespeare experience but were anxious to risk and stretch their established talents. This class included Rita Moreno, Treat Williams, Christine Lahti, John Shea and many other gifted and known actors.

Smith has since taught Shakespeare to actors as a guest artist in the graduate program at Temple University, the State University of New York at Purchase, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the T. Schreiber Studio, the National Shakespeare Conservatory, and the New School. For nearly three years he commuted twice monthly from New York to Los Angeles to teach at the Los Angeles Actors Center.

The Music and Speech Building is located between Midway Drive and Horning Road off East Main Street with free parking in the rear.

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4/24/96