



**KENTUCKY
SHAKESPEARE**

2019-2020 SEASON IN REVIEW



MISSION: Grounded in the works of Shakespeare, we enrich our community by presenting accessible, professional theatre experiences that educate, inspire, and entertain people of all ages.

VISION: To use Shakespeare's universal truths and the power of the arts to transform lives. Shakespeare belongs to everyone.

90,000+ SERVED THIS SEASON



Celebrate 60

FESTIVAL

- Virtual Shakespeare in Central Park served 47,000+ through nine productions.
- *Celebrate 60: The Kentucky Shakespeare Festival Anniversary Production* digital season premiered with 2020 summer company; still available for free streaming on YouTube and Facebook.
- *As You Like It* broadcast on KET KY: The Kentucky Channel.
- *As Y'all Like It: Songs from Kentucky Shakespeare* nationwide album released from singer/songwriter Aaron Bibelhauser.



Two-Actor Hamlet

EDUCATION

- Served 42 counties, 133 schools, 36,897 in-person in 2019 and early 2020.
- Virtual Summer Camps served Gilda's Club Kentuckiana, Down Syndrome of Louisville, and Dreams with Wings.
- The Bekki Jo Schneider Intern Company met online throughout the summer.
- Shakespeare Off the Page moved to Zoom with multiple added classes and increased enrollment.
- Wednesdays with Will free virtual Camp Shakespeare offered.
- Awarded Shakespeare in American Communities Grants from Arts Midwest and NEA.
- In response to COVID-19, programs and workshops made available online.



Night of the Living Dead

COMMUNITY

- Shakespeare in the Parks tour released digitally for schools and 14 Louisville Metro districts.
- Indoor, ticketed performances: *Night of the Living Dead* at LPM; annual *Frankenstein* staged reading at Locust Grove.
- Shakespeare in the Libraries tour served 10 LFPL Branches.
- Celebrated Fifth Anniversary of Shakespeare with Veterans program with Veterans Day event.
- Kentucky Shakespeare adopted Land Acknowledgment and Anti-Racism Statements.
- Participant in Virtual Cultural Pass Summer Program.
- Partnered with University of Louisville on 60th Anniversary Oral History Project.

PERSEVERANCE INNOVATION COMMUNITY



In the first half of our 2019-2020 season, we were performing our in-person programs—an indoor fall radio play, education tours, and community outreach—and planning for our blockbuster celebratory 60th Anniversary summer season in Central Park. In the spring of 2020, the pandemic followed by a renewed call for racial justice fundamentally changed our path going forward. With health and community well-being our top focus, we turned our attention to new, innovative ways to perform our mission while honoring all the necessary health, safety, and emotional considerations. We looked inward as an organization to continue our pursuit of racial equity and inclusion to better reflect our community, and in the face of our health crisis, we adapted our programming digitally and virtually, reaching a diverse and widespread audience, completing a successful and historic 2019-2020 season.



Celebrate 60

Celebrate 60: The Kentucky Shakespeare Festival Anniversary Production

"This is so delightful! A balm for the soul of 2020. Thank you for 60 years of sharing the Bard with the city of Louisville, and for the efforts and talent of cast and crew in making this film." —YouTube Subscriber

"Your look back at the 60 years' worth of treasured performance and the many personalities that have worked to make them live again and again was such an obvious love letter, but one that we who return each summer could wish to have written ourselves. Thank you for such a beautiful production!" —Donald

"What joy!! My heart!! Theatre! Community! I've already teared up twice! Thank you Kentucky Shakespeare for all that you are for this community!" —Cami



Virtual Shakespeare in the Park

Virtual Shakespeare in Central Park

"So happy right now. This play is giving me life." —Cassie

"Thank you for your encore performances. They have helped me through a difficult time!" —Thomas

"I love this, thank you so much for keeping this tradition going for my family, I would come when I was little with my family, when I had my girls started bringing them, then my grandchildren, thank you for being a long standing tradition in my family." —Shelley

"I put plants around me and made a picnic in my living room. Easier to imagine that I'm there. I imagine the fireflies in the park." —Laura

Night of the Living Dead Radio Play Reviews: October 2019

"...so effective, making it a satisfying Halloween treat... offer a rare, almost tactile experience to the audience member... a sense of inclusion in the experience... masterful execution..."
—Ben Gierhart, 89.3 WFPL

"Kentucky Shakespeare has found a way to deliver chilling Halloween productions that stand out from the season... Whether Kentucky Shakespeare decides to make 'Night of the Living Dead' a tradition in the way of 'Dracula' or whether they choose another show, their first original adaptation of a cult movie turned radio play is a spooky success."
—Alex Roma, LEO Weekly

"...this production is both a callback to the greatest zombie movie of all time and an unorthodox aesthetic approach."
—Keith Waits, Arts-Louisville.com



Education

"My kiddos were doing conflict resolution and reading Shakespeare today!!! A huge shout out to Kentucky Shakespeare for putting on a great program and willing to work with all kids." —Staff Member, Clark County Juvenile Detention Center

"Kentucky Shakespeare youth programs/workshops are absolutely phenomenal! My son participated in Camp Shakespeare last summer and thoroughly enjoyed the early introduction into one of the most celebrated playwrights in history. The staff made sure all the children felt secure and had the opportunity to build confidence in the power of their own voice, imagination and artistic ability with dignity and respect." —Colleen, parent

"The KY History program today was GREAT. Very informative and the students were engaged, interested and entertained."
—LPAS Teacher

Outreach

"Sometimes I feel like I'm the only person who has ever felt these feelings, and then I look in Shakespeare and see someone 400 years ago was writing about the same thing."
—Vietnam-era US Army veteran

"As you can imagine some of the Shakespeare stuff is tough for (my son) but the vocal warm up, he loved. Feel free to pass this on. He gets a kick out of Devin. But he NEVER imitates on the spot vocally. This knocked me over. This was just now."
—Father of Dreams With Wings student



Land Acknowledgement

Kentucky Shakespeare acknowledges we are situated on the traditional land of the Adena, Hopewell, Miami, Osage, Shawnee, and DWJᏉᏍᏏ Tsalaguwetiya (Cherokee, East) people. We respect their enduring presence and historical stewardship of these lands.

Anti-Racism Statement

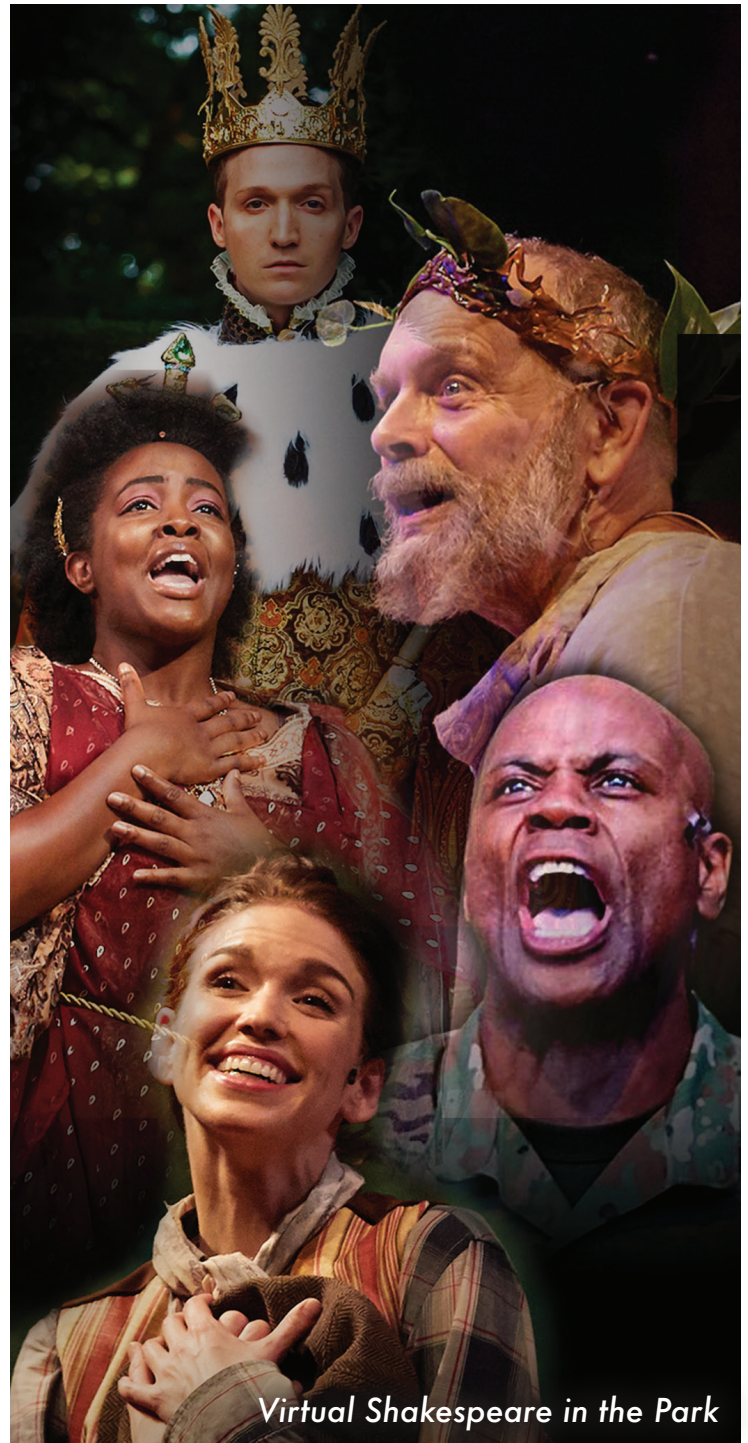
As artists and educators, we are committed to holding the “mirror up to nature,” while creating a safe and welcoming space at our performances, in the community, and in the classroom.

We recognize racism and inequality in our community and the country, and we commit ourselves to anti-racism. We believe that Black lives matter.

We commit to outreach and inclusion of people of all abilities, races, creeds, religions, genders, and sexual identities.

We acknowledge that we are a non-profit arts organization grounded in the works of Shakespeare and commit to exploring Shakespeare’s universal truths while never losing sight of the fact that not all experiences emanate from a white European vantage point.

We commit to deeply listening to our BIPOC community members, within and outside of our organization. We commit to learning, never being satisfied, and creating positive change – proactively committing our efforts and resources to building anti-racist, inclusive, equitable, and empathetic spaces and experiences for all.



Board of Directors

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Financial Snapshot

Income: \$868,808
Expenses: \$768,285

Program Services: 73%
Management and General: 18%
Fundraising: 9%

Financial statements audited by DMLO

Kentucky Shakespeare

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