



**KENTUCKY  
SHAKESPEARE**

# 2023-2024 SEASON IN REVIEW



**MISSION:** Grounded in the works of Shakespeare, we enrich communities through accessible, inclusive, professional theatre experiences that educate, inspire, and entertain diverse audiences.

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

## 71,265 SERVED THIS SEASON



### FESTIVAL

- 26,785 audience members served at no charge in Central Park
- 11 weeks, 7 productions, 53 performances
- Continued Access – 5th year of Kids' Globe interactive tent; 4th year of TARC to the Park free bus vouchers; additional ASL Interpreters
- Guest productions from Louisville Ballet, Louisville Improvisors, and Louisville Fringe Festival
- Performances from our own programs including Camp Shakespeare, Shakespeare with Veterans, Community Creates, and Gilda's Club Survivorship Shakespeare
- 45+ nightly community pre-show performances including Ambo Dance Theatre, Down Syndrome of Louisville, DESTINED Dance Co., River Cities Ensembles, Louisville Classical Academy, The Thoroughbreds, Academy of Flamenco Arts, Derby City Chamber Brass, Hui Kaululehua, and more



### EDUCATION

- 39K served. 73 counties (65 Kentucky, 8 Indiana)
- Organizations: 197 schools (17% increase), 31 libraries, 22 community organizations
- Performance & Workshop Hours: 696
- Served 100% of JCPS middle and high schools
- Record 240 summer campers served through Camp Shakespeare (19% scholarship)
- 15 college students participated in Bekki Jo Schneider Intern Company for summer season
- Shakespeare Off the Page continued virtually
- Year-long residency with incarcerated youth at the Clark Regional Detention Center in Jeffersonville, Indiana
- Tours to flood-impacted areas of Eastern Kentucky, made possible by Arts for All Kentucky



### COMMUNITY

- Indoor ticketed season included sold-out and extended run of *The Woman in Black* at our Headquarters and Louisville premiere of *Sense and Sensibility* by Kate Hamill at the Kentucky Center
- Shakespeare in the Parks *A Midsummer Night's Dream* toured to a record 38 venues in spring 2024
- Shakespeare in the Libraries *Romeo & Juliet* toured to 5 Louisville Free Public Library branches
- 8th year of Shakespeare with Veterans program culminated with performance of scenes from *King Lear* on the Central Park stage
- Arts residencies with Down Syndrome of Louisville, Backside Learning Center, Kaleidoscope, Gilda's Club, and our own Brave Spirits LGBTQ+ teen program made possible by Arts for All Kentucky
- New program serving grieving youth partnering with Hosparus G-Force Camp



Romeo & Juliet



The Comedy of Errors



The Tempest



The Globe Players' Julius Caesar

## Kentucky Shakespeare Festival in Central Park

“Thank you, Kentucky Shakespeare for enriching our lives and the lives of so many! Thank you, for doing more than your part to make the world a better place. You bring people together. You entertain and educate. You teach us to be more human and more humane! Bravo! Brava!” – *Laura*

“My daughter had talked all year about returning to Shakespeare in the Park this summer. It was wonderful getting to see this show on opening night. The acting, sets, costumes, lighting, and sound are superb. Thank you for keeping Will free.” – *Victoria*

“Fantastic performance! I think this is our favorite instance of R&J - we have 2 boys and 3 girls and this Juliet and Romeo captured the teenage heart and drama like no other. Supporting actors were equally well played. Loved the costumes as well! Start of a fantastic season!” – *Rob and Ginger*

“I was walking back from the food truck at intermission Friday evening and a teen ran by and said ‘I love Shakespeare!’ I thought that was so perfect! The storytelling in this version is excellent!” – *Luckii*

“They did an amazing job! Even my husband is already wanting to plan another trip back to see another one! We drove over 3 hours from Stanton, KY and spent the night in Louisville so we could watch this production!” – *Barbara*

“These performances are the best I’ve seen in the US or Canada, truly inspiring! We are so fortunate to have such talent made so accessible! Thank you Kentucky Shakespeare!!” – *Laura*

“A place I feel completely at home is in Central Park in the summer during a Kentucky Shakespeare show. Some of my best friends and favorite actors are part of that company, and it is soul-healing and overwhelmingly joyful to get to see them do what they were put on earth to do in front of hundreds of people in the middle of a park. I have never seen a ‘typical’ Kentucky Shakespeare crowd; it is a mix of all ages, races, shapes and sensibilities. I’ve never been afraid to put my arm around my girlfriend on the bench.” – *Tory Parker, interview with Queer Kentucky*



Shakespeare in Dance: King Lear

## The Woman in Black

“Kentucky Shakespeare has done it again with another haunting, spellbinding production” – *Kevin*

“This is absolutely the most riveting production I’ve seen on a Louisville stage this year. It’s no surprise that this show is nearly sold out given the professional quality that Kentucky Shakespeare continues to bring to Louisville audiences every year.” – *Tim*

“It was so good! My kids loved it... Third time seeing it on stage – even better than the London West End production.” – *Rebecca*

“Kentucky Shakespeare continues its tradition of providing the surest bet in Louisville for Halloween season theatre (if you can get tickets).” – *Keith Waits, Arts-Louisville*



*The Woman in Black*

## Sense and Sensibility

“This year’s production has all the delight and charm of a punch at a party—delicious ingredients that bring people together and warm them from the inside out... And in the end, we have a cathartic cry, a beautiful kiss, and a little dance to cap off an absolutely delightful evening... laugh-out-loud funny all throughout, made all the more so by director Amy Attaway and an ensemble who never miss a moment for a laugh, unless of course, it’s time to cry.” – *Tory Parker, Arts-Louisville review*

“Thoroughly enjoyed this performance! Great job by all!” – *Garrett*

“Best opening night Ever! Loved every moment; didn’t want it to end!” – *Sherry*

“Drove 4 hours there and back, but it was totally worth it!” – *Annabelle*



*Sense and Sensibility*

## Education and Outreach

“The kids loved it. I was happy to see their participation, I was happy to hear their pertinent questions. I was very proud of them cheering each other on! Thank you for coming! I’d love to see you at any school I am contracted with!” – *Teacher, Fulton Independent*

“We have booked Kentucky Shakespeare for many programs and they are always excellent. We will always book them as they are a vital part of our programming, and always do a great job. The performers are always friendly and highly competent. The patrons love them!” – *Librarian, Laurel County*



*Shakespeare in the Parks:  
A Midsummer Night’s Dream*



*Shakespeare Alive!*



*Camp Shakespeare*

## Land Acknowledgment

Kentucky Shakespeare acknowledges we are situated on the traditional land of the Adena, Hopewell, Miami, Osage, Shawnee, and **DWJᎠᎿᎾᎿ** Tsalaguwetiyi (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 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.

## AUDIENCE SURVEY RESULTS

- 96% felt Central Park was more energized
- 95% gained a better appreciation for the arts
- 95% felt more comfortable with the arts
- 93% felt more connected to the community and neighbors
- 92% reported increased pride in their community
- 85% felt the community was positively impacted
- 83% felt less lonely – NEW QUESTION

### Location

70% from Louisville Metro (All Metro ZIP codes served)  
10% from elsewhere in KY  
12% from Indiana  
8% from 31 other states

### Years of Attendance

28% first time  
21% 1-3 years  
24% 4-10 years  
14% 11-25 years  
13% 26+ years

### Age

11% under 18  
11% 18-24  
25% 25-39  
23% 40-54  
21% 55-64  
9% 65+

### LGBTQ+

21%

### Income

11% under \$15k  
7% \$15-\$24,999  
20% \$25k-\$49,999  
37% \$50k-\$100k  
25% over \$100k

### How Many Times Per Summer

26% first time  
21% 2 times  
31% 3-4 times  
14% 5-6 times  
8% 7+ times

### Race/Ethnicity

3% Asian/Pacific Islander  
18% Black/African American  
6% Multi-Racial  
2% Other  
71% White/Caucasian  
7% Hispanic/Latino

### Living With a Disability

11%

### Education

7% less than high school  
17% high school graduate  
7% associates/2-year  
33% college graduate  
36% post graduate

## Board of Directors

Kay Madrick, Chair

Anya Bond-Beckley, Vice-Chair

Brad Comer, Treasurer

Shannon Harris, Secretary

Tracy K’Meyer, Development and

Community Engagement Chair

Michelle Jarboe, Marketing and Special

Events Chair

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Charley Nold

Javan Reed

Jodi Smiley

Lincoln Snyder

Kerry Wang

Phillip Allen, Emeritus

Elizabeth A. Cherry, Emeritus

Mera Cossey Corlett, Emeritus

David James, Emeritus

Dr. Peter Tanguay, Emeritus

Jonathan Smith, Ex-Officio

## Financial Snapshot

Income: \$1,405,288

Expense: \$1,331,950

Program Services - 85% (\$1,132,158)

Management and General - 10% (\$133,195)

Fundraising expenses - 5% (\$66,598)

Ending net assets: \$541,545

*Figures as of August 2024, prior to annual audit*

## Kentucky Shakespeare

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