



The year in review.

A recap of how **your support** made our first year-long season a great success.



We wanted to take a moment to thank you, once again, for your support and enthusiasm as Ohio Shakespeare Festival became a fully operating, year-round theatre between its venues outdoors at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and indoors at Greystone Hall. Whether you contributed to our wildly successful Indiegogo campaign, made a private donation, joined us for the Greenshow Gala, or simply attended a performance, you are to thank for our continued growth. This first season has reached unexpected levels of success, and our deepest gratitude goes out to you.

**The new Henry C.
Bishop Stage at
Greystone Hall.**

In fact, you as the audience are a pivotal part of our mission: "The Ohio Shakespeare Festival regards the actors, the script, and the audience as the quintessential elements of the theatre." We consider our audience very much a part of our Ohio Shakes family. So consider this the first of your yearly OSF family newsletters!

The shows.

We produced 5 shows as part of our first indoor season at Greystone Hall.

Robin Hood: An Adventure, with Music kicked off the year with Fall Family Theatre. First performed outdoors at Stan Hywet (over 1,000 patrons in 4 evenings), we remounted this original play in October, engaging community members of all ages with classic literature brought to life.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) was one of the most popular titles OSF has ever produced, performing to sold-out crowds in its one-weekend run. It will return in January 2018.

Lone Star and ***The Upstart Crow*** allowed us to stretch beyond our normal fare, offering two newer plays performed in repertory. With the addition of the Henry C. Bishop stage, OSF will continue to offer more than "just Shakespeare."

The Comedy of Errors finished off the first indoor season in true OSF style. Audiences have been asking us to "bring back Ernie González!" for years, and we finally did it. Ernie returned from LA to reprise his signature role of Dromio in spring 2017.

"...has breathed some important life into Akron theatre."

-WEST SIDE LEADER



The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) played to sold out houses. It will return in 2018!

Next season will be our most ambitious one yet.

We will begin with our beloved outdoor Shakespeare season: ***As You Like It*** and ***The Winter's Tale***. Then it's back to Greystone for Fall Family Theatre: ***The Three Musketeers: An Adventure, with Music***. Next up is our first musical: Lerner and Loewe's ***CAMELOT***. We then bring you Molière, the grandfather of comedy, with the hilarious ***Scapin***. Finally, we will end with the **Ohio premiere** of ***King Charles III***, a future history play.

Support the 2017-18 season by purchasing a subscription (330-374-7574) or by donating at www.ohioshakespeare.com/donate



Guests and company members danced in the New Year at the Greenshow Gala.

The community.

Our new home allowed us to engage with the community in so many new ways.

ShakesBEER events, held in our lobby bar, are an intimate (and rowdy) experience for actors and audiences alike. There's no better way to make new friends than to share a pint with them!

The New Year's Eve **Greenshow Gala** was our first fundraising event, and we enjoyed the chance to ring in the New Year with 80 of our company members and patrons.

OSF was able to connect and collaborate with the greater Akron community in **meaningful and engaging new partnerships** with: Nuevo Modern Mexican Restaurant, the Akron Summit Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Rubber City Tales, Chill Ice Cream, The Buckle and the Rose, Akron2Akron Walking Tours, PechaKucha, Sofar Sound, Arts Now, the Canton College Club, and the Angie Haze Project, among others.

These community engagement efforts will continue and grow along with our company!

The education.

OSF engaged over 1,000 students across its educational offerings since October.

The Student Matinee Series began by touring to ten local schools with a 60 minute production of *Macbeth* and supplemental workshops.

The monthly **Weekend Workshops** offered master classes to actors and educators of all ages and skill levels. Popular classes included Classical Physical Comedy, Banish Your ShakesFEAR, Finding Truth in acting Shakespeare, teacher training, and youth classes.



Students prep for a performance of *Macbeth* in this supplementary workshop.

Monday FIGHT NIGHT, taught by Resident Fight Director Ryan Zarecki, offers monthly focus classes on stage combat techniques. This class offers a unique community and fitness experience, and it promotes higher quality and safety in stage combat for theatre artists in Northeast Ohio.

**"...our students
were captivated
by their talent."**

-APRIL MASON, LAKELAND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We are always adding to our **free Resources Library** online at www.ohioshakespeare.com/resources. OSF is dedicated to further reducing cost to students and schools, making our educational opportunities even more accessible.



ShakesBEER readings will continue connecting us with our audience through Shakespeare....and booze.

The next step.

We can't wait to continue on this journey with you, and **we cannot overstate how important your support is for our continued work**. We consider our audience to be thoroughly engaged in our art, whether you are the recipient of a particularly long "aside" during a Shakespeare play, learning on our stage, or sipping a pint with us. We thank you for your enthusiasm for live, classic theatre, and we invite you to continue growing with us through season 2017-2018. I'll finish with my absolute favorite Shakespeare quote: **"I can no other answer make but thanks and thanks and ever thanks!"**

Sincerely,


Tess Burgler, Managing Director

YES I would like to support the work of OSF with my donation of:

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