A Message From the Board of Directors

2017 was a year of renovations. Like a house, we used the existing foundation of Flatwater Shakespeare Company to update and renew our productions and services.

With construction, various skills and trades are needed: planners, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, etc. With theatre, the same is true: staff, directors, designers, actors, etc. Our “construction foreman” during 2017, Artistic Executive Director Becky Boesen, lead the team through our evaluation and renovation process.

The Board of Directors and staff worked diligently to assess and improve basic “utilities” such as policies, procedures, and code of conduct expectations. While not the most exciting part of nonprofit services, these things provide a strong foundation upon which everything is based.

Additions and expansions occurred through the use of new designers, actors, and other contract staff. Ongoing relationships with some long-time actors and designers strengthened our foundation. We also worked with new community partners, such as the Pioneers Park Nature Center and Homestead Monument (new tour locations) and The Clyde Malone Center (a site for the Little But Fierce education program).

A core room in our house has always been youth education. Our youth education program was completely rebuilt and transformed into two new programs: Little But Fierce and Sonnet Intensive. These programs emphasized process and comprehension in fun, engaging ways with children and youth adults from Kindergarten through High School.

In real estate, they say location is everything. This was incorporated into our season through our designation as part of the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Celebration, honoring 250th anniversary Nebraska’s statehood. Flatwater Shakespeare Company is grateful that our location is based in Lincoln, and proud to part of building a community with a vibrant arts sector. As we look forward to 2018, we hope you’ll join us in our work to prove that Shakespeare is for everyone.

Michelle Zinke,
2017 Chair
Board of Directors

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**2017 Staff**
Becky Boesen, Executive Artistic Director; Stephen Buhler, Education Director/Facebook Manager; Linda Zinke, Operations Manager; Michelle Zinke, Production Stage Manager

**2017 Board of Directors**
Michelle Zinke (Chair), Larry Weixelman (Vice-Chair), Darl Naumann (Treasurer), Linda Willard (Secretary), Diane Bartels, William Byrant, Jay Scott Chipman, Andrew Fuller, Diane Gonzolas, Melissa Lewis Nuss, Chris Maly, Kelly Medwick, Tim Scholl
PRODUCTIONS:
*Merry Wives of Windsor:* This was our 7th annual summer tour production. Four performances were held at The Stables at Wyuka, followed by performance at 11 different tour locations. This included 3 new locations: The Railyard, Pioneers Park, and Homestead Monument by Beatrice. Our attendance count was 1534. Of these, 163 were children.

*The Weir:* A modern classic by Conor McPherson, our fall production was held for 2 weekends at The Stables at Wyuka. A total of 364 attended The Weir. Of these 71 were students and 101 were senior citizens. Three groups from OLLI attended this production.

EDUCATION:
- **Little But Fierce:** This was a new youth initiative and provided theatre opportunities for children K-6th grade at no cost. Talented teaching artists worked together to develop a curriculum based on Shakespeare with links to modern concepts, including the creation of a Shakespeare rap: To Be, or Not To Be, That is the Question Shakespeare Asks of Me. 31 children participated in this new program. Activities were held at Bennet Martin Library and The Malone Center, with showcases for family and friends held at The Malone Center and Lincoln Community Foundation.
- **Summer Sonnet:** This was our second youth initiative, focused on youth aged 7th—12th grade. This group read and discussed several sonnets, and then wrote their own about something meaningful to them. Seven youth participated in this new venture. These activities were also held at Bennet Martin Library, with families invited for an ending event.

RECOGNITION:
**Mayor’s Arts Awards 2017:**
- Bob Hall, Flatwater Shakespeare founder, received the Mayor’s Arts Legacy Award from Lincoln Arts Council
- Richard Nielsen, perennial actor for Flatwater, received the Artistic Achievement, Performing Arts Award from Lincoln Arts Council

FUNDRAISER:
Haunted: A ShakesFeare Experience, was held in October at The Rogers House. This event included a silent auction, food and beverages, and ghost story entertainment from five talented local actors.
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Thanks to our anonymous donors.
Please let us know if anyone was inadvertently omitted.

Shakespeare is for Everyone!
Becky Boesen served as our Executive Artistic Director for one year. She resigned in December 2017 to concentrate on BLIXT, her arts education, management, and creative company, as well as her own original plays, some of which are in development and in performance regionally and nationally.

Flatwater Shakespeare Company thanks Becky for the energy, innovation, and artistic quality that she contributed to Flatwater Shakespeare during 2017.