We Players

“Site specific work at its San Francisco best” - SF Weekly

Connecting people with place through site-integrated theatre
“The dynamism of this production was unmatched by anything I’ve experienced before. The audience mimicked the momentum of the action, scrambling to the next dramatic moment. There was a giddiness among us, a truly engaged charge....This just might be the future of theatre.”

-The Huffington Post

OUR MISSION

We Players is the San Francisco Bay Area’s premiere site-specific theatre company. Founded in 2000, this unique non-profit creates stunning productions that are intimate and interactive - stimulating all of the senses through dynamic in-situ staging. Projects take place in national and state parks, drawing thousands of diverse young people and adults from all backgrounds to these beautiful sites, many for the first time.

We Players productions have received local and national recognition for their ground-breaking approach. These one-of-a-kind shows get audience members on their feet as they follow the performers through the park, exploring the landscape and connecting to the physical environment in these thought-provoking adaptations of classical texts.

We Players presents site-integrated performances that transform public spaces into realms of participatory theater. We bring communities together, reclaiming local spaces for public discourse and civic celebration through art. Extending the transformative powers of performance beyond the stage, we invite our collaborators and audience to engage fully and awaken to the spectacular world around us.
OUR PRACTICE

We Players works with the natural and contextual elements of each unique performance site. Incorporating the environment and architecture of culturally and historically significant landmarks, our work catalyzes new ways of seeing and experiencing both theatre and the world.

We inspire audiences to consider the delicacy and intricacies of their immediate physical environment by awakening all five senses. Using classical texts to discuss current issues in local landscapes, we raise awareness about the site and associated environmental, social, and political issues and create a context for community investment in our local public land.

“(We Players) has taken the tradition of alfresco theater in a new and ambitious direction by using national and state parks as the stage itself. The theater group’s productions transform park settings into scenes, creating theatergoing experiences that blend art, history, and landscape … and sometimes a good bit of hiking.”

-SIERRA Magazine

PLACE

We investigate the themes of the place, exploring their relevance and creating a dialogue between site and story. Audiences and park visitors alike enjoy new and unexpected interactions with public spaces.

CHOICE

As audience members move through the performance, they are free to choose and change the perspective from which they view the action.

MOVEMENT

Conventional barriers are blurred between audience and performers - immersed in the world of the play, audiences navigate the performance space, following the action as it unfolds.

COMMUNITY

We collaborate with local groups and other professional artists working with shared themes. We aim to catalyze conversation amongst the various communities involved in a given site.
UPCOMING
2018 - Roman Women at The Palace of Fine Arts
2018 - CAESAR MAXIMUS at The Music Concourse
2019 - Julius Caesar at Grant’s Tomb National Monument

PRODUCTION HISTORY
Early productions at Stanford University
2000 - Romeo & Juliet
2001 - Hamlet
2001 - Portrait of a Fool
2003 - Twelfth Night (or What You Will)
2003 - Jabberwocky at the Stanford Mausoleum
2004 - House of Will

Our first productions at regional and national park sites
2006 - The Tempest at The Albany Bulb
2008 - Macbeth at Fort Point

As the first performing artists in residence on Alcatraz Island
2009 - Iphigenia & Other Daughters on Alcatraz
2010 - Hamlet on Alcatraz
2011 - Alcatraz Symposium on Justice & Freedom

After Incorporating as a Nonprofit
2011 - The Odyssey on Alma
2012 - Twelfth Night at Hyde Street Pier
2012 - The Odyssey on Angel Island State Park
2013 - Macbeth at Fort Point
2014 - Macbeth at Fort Point
2014 - King Fool
2015 - Ondine at Sutro
2015 - HEROMONSTER at Fort Mason Center Chapel
2016 - The Capulet Ball
2016 - Romeo and Juliet at Petaluma Adobe
2016 - Romeo and Juliet at Villa Montalvo
2017 - BEOWULF at SF Maritime & Fort Mason
2017 - Midsummer of Love at Strawberry Hill
2017 - Midsummer of Love at Kennedy Grove
2017 - Mother Lear

WHAT AUDIENCES ARE SAYING
“Surpassingly transcendent”
“Even though I was only watching, I felt like part of something”

“Thoroughly immersed and implicated, spooked and inspired”
“Engages every one of the five senses... unforgettable”
We Players didn’t just break the fourth wall, it toppled the whole playhouse.”

-San Francisco Magazine