Against all odds, we forged ahead.  
JOIN US in keeping theatre alive in southern Vermont.

Despite all of the obstacles, this season **we invested** in bringing theatre back to Vermont. **We made the choice** to use all relief funding, donations and sponsorships to put artists and theatremakers back to work while **sustaining** the Festival’s 44-year history of bringing professional art and artists into our community.

With strict protocols from artist unions, housing shortages, working with 40% less staff, and the **rainiest summer** we’ve seen in years, the Festival was constantly adapting to continue honoring our mission. **We rose to the challenge and proved** the Festival can and will continue to produce theatre that matters in southern Vermont.

This season we...

- **Built an outdoor stage from the ground up** at the Southern Vermont Arts Center, with a focus on creating a safe environment for audiences to return to live theatre.

- **Launched a new play** into the American theatre repertoire with the World Premiere production of *Queen of the Night* by travis tate.

- **Tripled annual participation** in the Young Playwrights program with more students than ever engaging in the online offering.

- **Premiered STAGE FREE audio plays** (available for free on all major podcast platforms), providing a new way to support the creation of work while also making it accessible to all.

- **Supported new voices** through the Pipeline Series, and this year’s *Scarecrow* by Heidi Armbruster slated for a future Main Stage season premiere.

- **Expanded our artist network** by inviting the Festival’s playwriting fellows and commissioned artists for Vermont writing retreats this summer.

We supported a total of 95 theatremakers this past year. We could not have done it without help from supporters like you.
Support what comes next.
Help us get BACK TO THE PLAYHOUSE.

We don’t know what the future holds, but we know the Festival will continue to be a leader in bringing audiences back together safely, while also developing new ways to support artists and provide access to professional theatre in our community.

Like us, theatre is resilient, and we are more committed than ever to contributing to the American theatre that comes next. Expanding access to the arts and the ongoing practice of making our theatre a place that celebrates differences in our community is an important part of the comeback we envision.

This year all Covid-19 Essential Workers were included in the Giving Back Program, which offers free tickets to people who serve our community and their families. And we launched a new ticket lottery, educator discount, and Community Inclusion Partnership Program, inviting BIPOC, AAPI, LGBTQIA, and underrepresented and historically excluded community groups and business owners to participate in the 2021 season with complimentary sponsorships and exclusive ticket access for their communities.

**We aim to be back at our homebase in the historic Dorset Playhouse** as soon as we can, and we can’t wait to toast with you in the café on opening night.

Yet as we reimagine theatre, we also want to be prepared for the unknown challenges that lie ahead. Please [join the Festival in our commitment](https://www.dorsettheatrefestival.org) to live theatre and our investment in enlightening, entertaining, and inspiring our audience through the celebration of great plays - no matter what.

*Be part of the American theatre that comes next at Dorset Theatre Festival.*

*Your gift has an impact.*

Sincerely,

Dina Janis, Artistic Director
Mary-Anne Van Degna, Development Chair