THANKS SO MUCH TO OUR 2020 DONORS

Flatwater Shakespeare Company
Annual Report, 2020

Message from the Executive Artistic Director, Summer Lukasiewicz—

Friar Lawrence had all the details figured out: Romeo and Juliet would be happily living a new life in Mantua by this time next week, the feuding would end, and peace would return to fair Verona . . . and it would have worked too, if only the message hadn’t been delayed when Friar John was quarantined for fear of the pestilence.

In March of 2020 our R&J closed before it opened and we -- along with the rest of the world -- began to navigate ever-shifting waters. We postponed, we adapted, and we celebrated silver linings.

So, how do we pivot? We keep one foot firmly grounded in who we are, and we boldly move the other in a new direction.

FSC remains committed in our efforts to make Shakespeare accessible to everyone through high quality productions and education programs. With Shakespeare so interwoven throughout our culture, we are striding to swing the doors open wide -- inviting our community into Shakespeare and bringing Shakespeare into our community.

The experiences of the last year have only confirmed the vital need for theatre in a vibrant culture. We have a role to play and we are here for it!

Message from the Chair of Board of Directors, Larry Weixelman--

“Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt.” – William Shakespeare

2020 challenged the creative spirit of the arts community in myriad ways. Flatwater Shakespeare Company, having arrived at twenty years of serving Lincoln and the surrounding areas with high quality live entertainment, was no stranger to the essential agility required for navigating the rough waters of last year. We are deeply grateful for the donors, individual and corporate, that believe in our mission even as we could not display our efforts in return. We are truly fortunate as a company to have strong individuals in leadership positions that braved that storm, added sails to a ship in motion and landed us safely in 2021. The attempts were made, the doubts were left behind, and we begin this year with renewed energy and opportunities to make our twenty-first year the best yet.

Flatwater Shakespeare Company
2020 Staff
Summer Lukasiewicz, Executive Artistic Director; Linda Zinke, Operations Manager

2020 Board of Directors
Larry Weixelman, Chair; Melissa Lewis Nuss, Vice-Chair; Kelly Meshick, Treasurer; Gwendyllyn Evans, Secretary
Diane Barrels, William Bryant, Lauren Durban Silverman, MarthaEllen Florence, Jeffrey Korbelik, Fred Seckman, Rob Sharp, Kelly Stage
As we transitioned to an online option for LBF, we focused on Romeo & Juliet. This let us use the company of actors who had just played these roles as we developed video lessons for the students. The actors and director filmed lessons on the characters, the plot of each Act and an interactive lesson on Shakespeare’s “weird words”. Teaching artists filmed warm-ups to get the kids active each day and a lesson on sonnet structure. Dr. Buhler contributed videos of Shakespearean Sonnets set to original music as sonnet means “little song”. We mailed packets of hands-on materials and activities that paired with the video lessons—word searches, puzzles, coloring & character cards, & note sheets to help students follow the plot lessons. These were differentiated for age levels (K-2, 3-5, & 6-9). We also provided crayons and pencils to be sure each student would have what they needed. The live Zoom sessions were separated by age group so teaching artists could answer questions and there could be interaction between peer groups.

The mission of Flatwater Shakespeare Company is to entertain and educate audiences in Lincoln and surrounding communities through Shakespeare and other high-quality theater productions.