

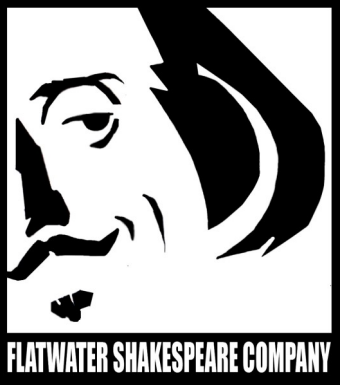
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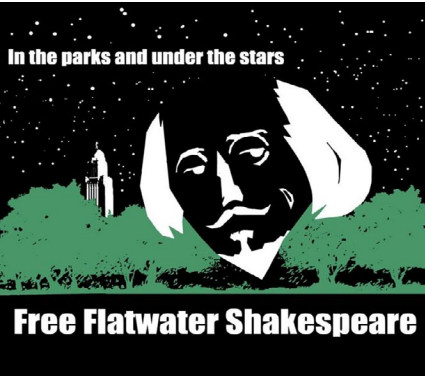
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office, etc
Facilities
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Flatwater
Shakespeare
Company
Annual Report, 2020



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 all 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 striving 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 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 have believed 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.

2020 Staff

Summer Lukasiewicz, Executive Artistic Director; Linda Zinke, Operations Manager

2020 Board of Directors

Larry Weixelman, Chair; Melissa Lewis Nuss, Vice-Chair; Kelly Medwick, Treasurer; Gwyndyllynn Evans, Secretary
Diane Bartels, William Bryant, Lauren Durban Silverman, MarthaEllen Florence, Jeffrey Korbelik, Fred Seckman, Rob Sharp, Kelly Stage

The 2020 At-Home Learning Experience

TEACHING ARTISTS:

Stephen Buhler
Sasha Dobson
Summer Lukasiewicz
Ann Marie Polland
Jane Schiermeyer
David Reed Westerhoff

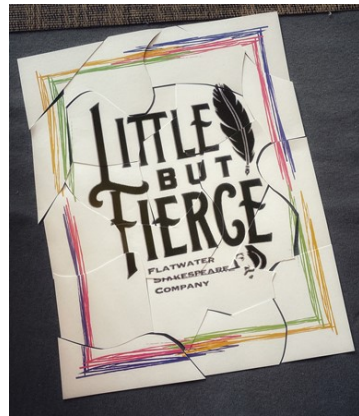


ACTORS:

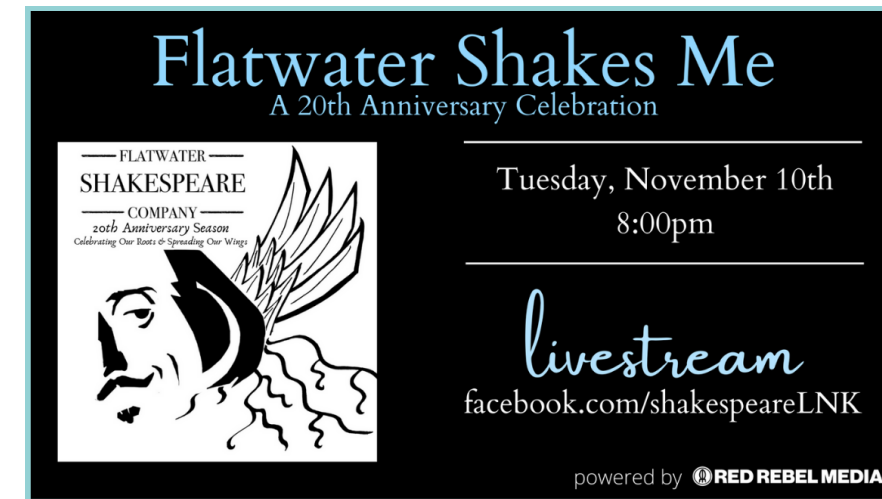
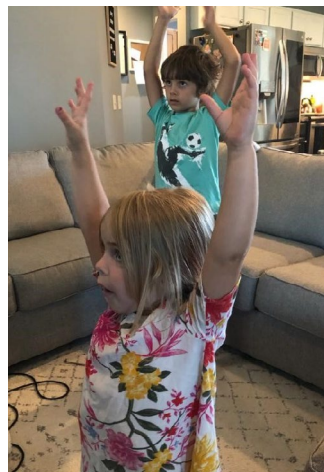
Matthew Bejjani
Emily Funkey
Luke Glassman
Katie Hoppe
Paul Shaw
Fred Vogel

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.



Flatwater Shakes Me was a virtual celebration of our 20th anniversary, as the pandemic cancelled our previous plans. FSC founding members, actors, Little But Fierce students, supporters and audience members were invited to perform their Dream Role speeches and share memorable moments from twenty seasons of Flatwater productions—Flatwater Shakes Me stories. Over 25 people shared stories and speeches, with over 70 viewers signed in during the live stream.



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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Our financial data for 2020 is different than it's ever been.

Due to rapidly shifting health measures, we had to cancel our first production of the year, Romeo & Juliet, one day before opening night. We paid the cast and crew, contacted all the season ticket holders, refunded some monies, and sent out a video of the performance. We sustained a loss on this production, our first production loss since Summer Lukasiewicz began as Executive Artistic Director in February, 2018.

Because of our gains in financial stability since 2018, we were able to survive the impact of the pandemic. The community and arts organizations have been very supportive, and our board has been involved in every step. We have been able to move forward with parts of our long-term plan.

Toward the end of 2020, the Board of Directors decided to move forward with our plans to update our website to strengthen our online presence. We partnered with Firespring. Our website has a new look and streamlines our communication abilities and donations, including the opportunity for our supporters to donate monthly.



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