



SEASON 7 ANNUAL REPORT

PORT
LAND
PLAY
HOUSE

When we share creative experiences, we build powerful
CONNECTIONS with the people we're closest to, with our
community and the world around us, and with ourselves.



Hello friends,

Have you made connections over the last year at Portland Playhouse that have made a lasting impact in your life?

Here are a couple that have stuck with me:

I remember the closing performance of ***The Piano Lesson***; after the final bow the actors stayed on stage and started an impromptu jam session of the song 'Berta Berta.' All of the actors started singing together, and then the audience joined. It was a beautiful and powerful moment of connection.

I remember seeing the bright, glowing joy and often tears in the audiences' eyes as they joined in singing 'Joy to the World' at the end of ***A Christmas Carol***.

I remember the outrageous laughter when Luann faced off with Julian in a rap battle during a school matinee of ***How We Got On*** performed for Boise Elliot and St. Andrews students.

And I remember the mother who wrote, after seeing ***How We Got On***:

"You touched something deep in my 14-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter tonight, as well as her friend." After the show, the kids couldn't stop talking about it and her daughter told her "It's like I'm watching a grown-up me!"

The mother continued, "Thank you for sharing your incredible talent and for blowing us away with an amazing performance. Thanks also for stepping into my daughter's world tonight and giving her a glimpse of what she could become."

And, a most recent example, I remember how Mia Chung and I laughed and laughed when I picked her up from the airport after we had been corresponding for over a year about bringing her play **You For Me For You** to Portland, and we suddenly realized that we KNEW EACH OTHER from 10 years ago in Boston.

These connections that we find in life can be full of SURPRISE and DELIGHT, they can fill us with happiness, and help us grow as human beings. Theatre and creative experiences can also empower everyone to share their VOICE and illuminate ideas, conflicts, and points of view that the world might otherwise be without.

If we ever had any doubt about the truly transformative power of creative expression we only need to attend Nikki's high school program, the **Fall Festival of Shakespeare**. These students embody the benefits of art in the most visceral and immediate way. Imagine 300 students giving multiple standing ovations in the course of ONE PLAY, screaming and stomping their feet for each other, hugging and jumping for joy, encountering a vocabulary seven times larger than all the words they hear in their normal lives, hearts beating fast, invigorated, supporting each other across "school pride" boundaries, cheering for other schools, and working TOGETHER to create something so much bigger than the individual "me."

We can build powerful connections with people and the world around us by recognizing and EXPLORING creative expression all around us, by SHARING our own creative voice and experiencing creative expression with others, and by SUPPORTING the opportunity for everyone to experience and express creativity in their daily lives.



Brian Weaver, Founder / Artistic Director

OUR STORY

THE PLAYHOUSE WAS BORN IN 2008 when a group of artists found a historic repurposed church in which to realize their dream of creating topical, relevant theatre in an intimate, community setting.



Students from Hudson's Bay watching
De La Salle's performance in the first
Fall Festival of Shakespeare

Over the years, Portland Playhouse has evolved into a lively center of art and community in the King neighborhood. The neighborhood has embraced us and our efforts to present important works from well-known, culturally-diverse playwrights like August Wilson and Tony Kushner, to emerging voices like Idris Goodwin, Mia Chung, and Tarell Alvin McCraney. **Willamette Week** named our production of August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* as the best on stage in 2014. **Portland Monthly** named Portland Playhouse "**City's Best Theatre**" and presented us with a "**Light-a-fire**" award for creativity.

And the Playhouse has received national attention, too. As a **2015 American Theatre Wing "National Theatre Company Award"** recipient, we have been recognized as "integral to the fabric of the community and furthering the national cultural conversation in exciting ways." Further, we are partnering with the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** to engage diverse audiences and have received funding from the **National Endowment for the Arts** for three different projects.

Several years ago, when the Bureau of Land Development asked us to vacate the building because of a zoning issue with our landlord, we began a 9-month long journey to gain the right to return home. With the **King** and **Sabin Neighborhood Associations'** support, all five City Commissioners voted in favor of our appeal to return home. Hundreds of neighborhood residents rallied in support of our appeal, writing letters and filling City Council chambers.

Barbara Conable, a Sabin resident, articulated her support for us at the Portland City Council Hearing:

"I took to see [August Wilson's] *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, a neighbor friend of mine. I've lived in Sabin four years. She's lived there all her life. When it was finished she grabbed my hand and shook it over and over and said, "They got it right. Barbara, they got it right." Now, in our neighborhoods, there is an 'it' to get right, and this facility, this institution, addresses that, and we need it."

"I am a teacher at Rosa Parks elementary and was in tears by the end of the play. The message of how powerful music, lyrics, and self expression can be to a child/teenager living in a world of inequity and poverty really inspired me to want to bring that into my classroom. Thank you for your brilliant performances."

– Audience member, *How We Got On*



Joe Gibson and Chip Sherman in *How We Got On*

STAFF

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Front of House Manager

Karl Hanover
Audience Services Manager

Alix Kolar
Bookkeeper

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Ashley Williams
Development Associate

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Collette Campbell

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Alli Green

Andrea Whittle

SPOTLIGHT

JOAN HARTZELL



Joan Hartzell has been working in costume shops up and down the West Coast for over twenty years, from Portland Center Stage to the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. She started bringing her energy and time to the Portland Playhouse board in 2015.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE COMMUNITY?

My friend Curt introduced me to Portland Playhouse. He has been on the board for many years and kept inviting me to attend. I finally agreed to join him for the final performance of *The Light in the Piazza*. I went in expecting the usual, community theatre experience. I was floored by this production. It was that good. To produce a show of that quality, on what I assumed was a limited budget, in an old church in North Portland...amazing.

WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING ABOUT BEING INVOLVED WITH THE PLAYHOUSE?

Everything I do at Portland Playhouse has been rewarding, simply because they need everything. They produce these amazing shows from a base level of zero. My background is in costumes and I've had the pleasure of working at some large regional theatres with generous budgets. It's amazing to me that Portland Playhouse consistently delivers really compelling shows on a minuscule budget and shockingly brief rehearsal period. As if there is magic happening in that old church and I'm lucky to be a part of it.

WHY DO YOU SUPPORT THEATRE AND ARTS EDUCATION?

I support arts education because I can. I am a true believer in the power of a shared theatrical experience. Whether you're working on costumes, or you're an actor or audience member there is something to be gained on every level. I believe in the power of theatre and creative expression to change the world for the better one show at a time.

OUR MISSION

Portland Playhouse is dedicated to producing quality, intimate performances in which the interaction between artists and audience is paramount. We hold theater to be a space where ALL people can come together to celebrate the complexity of our shared human experience.

OUR VISION

We envision a world awakened by the wonder of theatre.

OUR VALUES

BELONGING

Portland Playhouse is a space where all people are welcome. We foster a feeling of belonging for artists and audience alike. It is a place to connect with your friends, family, and neighbors and to meet new and different people.

GRATITUDE

Portland Playhouse is here by the grace and generosity of our community. We are grateful for the goodwill and support of the many people who make our work possible.

GRIT

We do what we need to do to create great work. We operate as a team, and no one is above rolling up their sleeves and working hard.

AMBITION

We tackle large and complex plays and education programs with a refreshing ignorance to all reasons why we should fail.

EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE



Founder / Education Director Nikki Weaver

"Being witness to such progress has led me to believe that this program is extraordinary in its ability to develop soft skills in young people (grit, perseverance, critical thinking skills, and the ability to synthesize ideas). These skills, when applied to other areas of their lives will give them the means and tools to be successful."

– Fall Festival Teacher

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH IN 2015.

In June, nine emerging artists moved us with their solo shows and completed our Apprentice Program. In August, we welcomed five new apprentices to the program. These talented young artists took to the stage for our latest production of **A Christmas Carol**. They sang, danced, assistant directed, and costumed their way through the holiday season.

This year our **Fall Festival of Shakespeare** brought together over 300 students from six schools to connect with Shakespeare as performers, designers, and audiences. In early November our younger students took the stage at **Da Vinci Arts Middle School** to perform **Macbeth** and **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Then our high school students converged at the **Winningstad Theatre** for a day-long festival of plays. The euphoria at the festival was palpable. They cheered each other on, laughed, and gasped in horror. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PLAYHOUSE EDUCATION WORLD IN 2016?

In March we wrapped up the 5th grade performance of **Hamlet** at **Alameda School**. This spring we're also working with 6th graders at **St. Andrews School** to teach **Maya Angelou's poetry**, and we're teaching **Romeo & Juliet** in English classes at **Lake Oswego High School**.

The apprentice company is busy with rehearsals for our upcoming production **Peter and the Starcatcher**, and Nikki Weaver (Founder / Education Director) took them to Ashland to see four plays. We're looking ahead to auditions for next year's Apprentice Company in March and April.

LEARN WITH PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE



Acting apprentice Quinlan Fitzgerald and Development Associate Ashley Williams in *A Christmas Carol*

*"The people... the community... I could
write a full ten pages about this
community. It's beautiful.*

The love physically hurts my heart."

– Fall Festival Participant

PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE ENCOURAGES STUDENTS OF ALL AGES TO EXPLORE HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT.

We commit ourselves to strengthening the voices of tomorrow through immersion in the dramatic arts by providing a visceral learning experience. We do this by utilizing Shakespeare text, Viewpoints, yoga, voice work, actor/director collaboration, and individual mentorships in all areas. Our programs build confidence and self-esteem, challenge and examine social perspectives, foster relationships through artistic collaboration, and create empathy through storytelling.

We offer the Fall Festival of Shakespeare for middle and high school students, residencies in schools and businesses, and a year-long apprentice program for college graduates.

GET YOUR SCHOOL INVOLVED!

Email nikki@portlandplayhouse.org or call our office at
503-488-5822 to learn more about bringing our
Fall Festival of Shakespeare or a residency to your school.

KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE APPRENTICE?

Visit www.portlandplayhouse.org/apprentice-company
for more information or to apply.

FALL FESTIVAL OF SHAKESPEARE 2015 BY THE NUMBERS

306
STUDENT
PARTICIPANTS

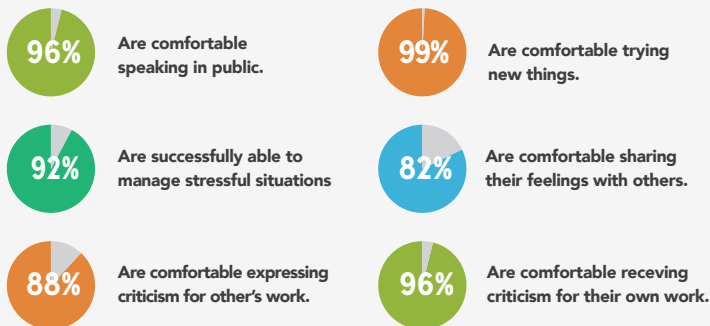
2500+
ESTIMATED
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

6 
SCHOOLS

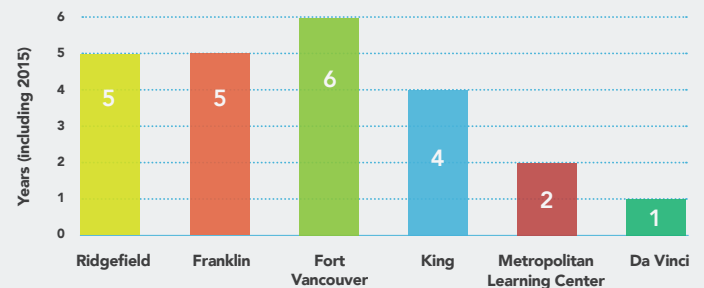
13 
EDUCATORS

10 
WEEKS

OF OUR 2015 FALL FESTIVAL OF SHAKESPEARE PARTICIPANTS...



HOW MANY YEARS HAS EACH SCHOOL BEEN INVOLVED
IN THE FALL FESTIVAL OF SHAKESPEARE?



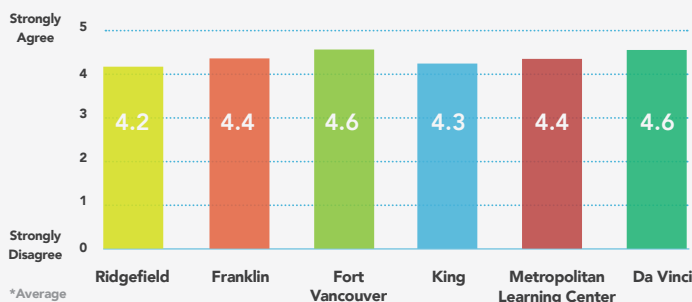
WOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE FALL FESTIVAL OF SHAKESPEARE AGAIN?



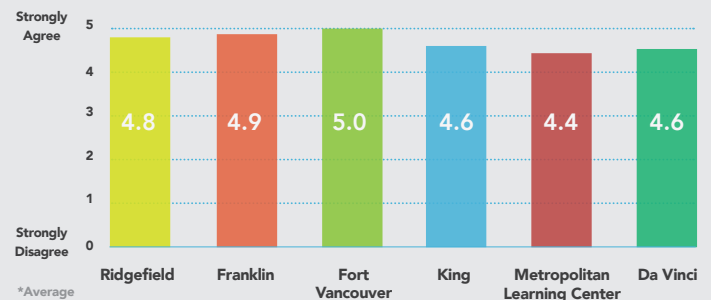
THIS IS MY FIRST YEAR PARTICIPATING IN THE FALL FESTIVAL



I AM COMFORTABLE UNDERSTANDING SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS



I BELIEVE THIS PROGRAM WAS A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE



PRODUCTION SPOTLIGHT

HOW TO END POVERTY IN 90 MINUTES

(WITH 99 PEOPLE YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW)

POST-SHOW SURVEY RESPONSES

"For those of us who have been in poverty, this production elicited emotional reaction / processing of past frustrations and experiences. I didn't realize how close my family was living to poverty most of my childhood until I saw it defined on the walls."

"I think the concept is profound. We need many more opportunities like this to interact as a community. It was so well done, informative, and professional."

"[Portland Playhouse] continues to produce some of the most relevant, provocative, and edgy theatre around."

"I enjoyed the show, I really valued the conversations, and I was left with so much to think about. My husband and I are still talking about things that struck us and strategies we want to consider supporting in the future."

"I was really struck when I left how most of the audience was still standing in the aisles talking to each other and to the performers - when do you ever see strangers doing that at the end of a theater production?"



How To End Poverty wasn't just a play; a lecture; an interactive workshop; a physical theatre piece; a public conversation - it was ALL of these things. Most significantly, it was an opportunity to challenge audiences with the question: how do you attack the problem of poverty in Multnomah County? People listened, explored, contributed, and ultimately chose how to spend \$1,000 from each performance's ticket sales to fight poverty. It was an experiment in collective decision-making, with the potential for art to make the world a better place.

Each night, audiences were asked to reflect on their values and experiences, and then decide where to invest the evening's collective resources. The drama in this show included brief fictional and documentary narratives, but its heart came from 100 people working to make a decision together amidst the energy and surprises of a theatrical experience.

How To End Poverty helped us broaden public knowledge on poverty in a new and innovative way. The production created opportunities for authentic dialogue between people who might not otherwise be in conversation with one another and helped us develop new partnerships with area nonprofits, service providers, and government agencies.

In the end, audiences donated more than \$17,000 to 12 poverty-focused nonprofits and 5 individuals in need. Most importantly, audiences engaged in community dialogue that continued well after the show ended.

SPOTLIGHT

TANISHA JONES



Tanisha Jones is a native, long-term resident and community member of NE Portland. She is also the President / Founder of Homegirl Consulting, LLC; an independent communications, business management, and marketing consulting firm.

In February, Tanisha joined forces with Portland Playhouse to organize an interactive dialogue and workshop about race, gentrification, and NE Portland history.

HOW DOES PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE'S MISSION RESONATE WITH YOU?

Portland Playhouse's mission resonates with me in that as a long-term, African-American resident of this community, I greatly appreciate that Portland Playhouse has remained true to and truly embodies their mission of creating a theater space in which ALL people, no matter their socio-economic class, race, sexual or political backgrounds, are welcome and can come together.

Theater is a vehicle that can unite people and cross barriers because of its ability to present content matter that many, if not all, people can relate to in some way. It also has the flexibility to showcase a diverse cast of performers who help depict our shared human experiences; as well as having the freedom to select the work of culturally diverse playwrights. As such, in all of the performances I have had the joy of viewing at Portland Playhouse, I have yet to experience a time in which they have not displayed their mission.

HOW DO YOU VIEW PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE'S ROLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

Portland Playhouse's role in the neighborhood is to uphold their mission by continuing to be intentional about including those who reside in and around the neighborhood of the Playhouse; while also exposing those outside the community to another perspective and experience.

By way of the systemic effects of gentrification, Portland Playhouse was able to come into a rich neighborhood of history, stories, a once true sense of community with neighbors looking out for one another, and community members fellowshiping together around their faith in the same church building that is now called Portland Playhouse.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PLAYHOUSE?

My hope for the future of Portland Playhouse is that they can build the necessary space capacity to serve the community by continuing to offer high quality and culturally diverse plays, but also better serve the community by offering their neighbors opportunities to host other engaging activities in their space; thus truly making the Playhouse "our" community hub and space.

FINANCIALS

FOR YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2015

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

SUPPORT	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Corporations	\$47,284	-	\$47,284
Foundations	\$126,360	\$18,000	\$144,360
Government grants	\$52,799	-	\$52,799
Individuals	\$233,464	\$40,000	\$273,464
In-kind support	\$35,850	-	\$35,850
Special projects	\$37,601	-	\$37,601
Total support	\$533,358	\$58,000	\$591,358
REVENUE			
Educational services	\$31,512	-	\$31,512
Season subscriptions	\$82,921	-	\$82,921
Single tickets	\$285,985	-	\$285,985
Other income	\$28,837	-	\$28,837
Total revenues	\$429,255	-	\$429,255
Net assets released from restrictions	\$42,300	(\$42,300)	-
Total support and revenues	\$1,004,913	\$15,700	\$1,020,613
EXPENSES			
Artistic expenses	\$698,581	-	\$698,581
Education expenses	\$70,636	-	\$70,636
Management and general expenses	\$147,188	-	\$147,188
Fundraising expenses	\$104,176	-	\$104,176
Total expenses	\$1,020,581	-	\$1,020,581
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(\$15,668)	\$15,700	\$32
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$42,104	\$95,222	\$137,326
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$26,436	\$110,922	\$137,358

DONORS

THANK YOU

Portland Playhouse gratefully acknowledges our supporters.

Your generosity allows us to activate surprise, delight, and challenge in our lives.

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

BELL TOWER \$25,000+

Meyer Memorial Trust
James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation
Playhouse on Prescott LLC

BELL TOWER \$10,000-\$24,999

American Theatre Wing
The Collins Foundation
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
National Endowment For The Arts
Newman's Own Foundation
Oregon Arts Commission
Oregon Cultural Trust
PGE Foundation
Raymond Family Foundation
Wrather Family Foundation
Willamette Week Give Guide

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Herbert A. Templeton Foundation

SEAT RISER \$5,000-\$7,499

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NW Natural
¿Por Qué No?
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Stash Tea

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Jane Schiffhauer

This list represents contributions and pledges toward our annual campaign that were received from January 1 - December 31, 2015.

We make every attempt to acknowledge your contribution accurately.

If you find a mistake, please don't hesitate to call us at 971-533-8743. We want to hear from you.

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Cynthia Williams
Ann Wilson
Jan Woita
Phyllis Wolfe
Merri Souther Wyatt
Mary Beth Yosses & Fred Williams
Jonathan & Merrie Ziady

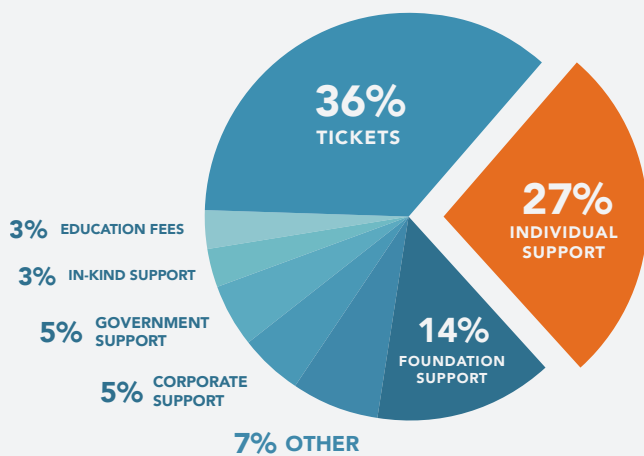


PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE

602 NE PRESCOTT ST.

PORTLAND, OR 97211-3966

WWW.PORTLANDPLAYHOUSE.ORG



DID YOU KNOW THAT TICKET SALES COVER ONLY 36% OF OUR EXPENSES?

Our ability to present the intimate, high quality theatre that we are known for depends a lot on the generosity of our community. No matter how large or small, each donation has a direct impact on our main stage plays, education and outreach efforts, along with the special event programs that grace our stage throughout the year.