



Pablo
CENTER AT THE CONFLUENCE



Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival

Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival Sponsor Opportunities 2024

Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival

Welcome to Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival! Our developmental theatre program is focused on bringing both original and modernized interpretations of William Shakespeare's works to the stage; our mission is centered around a shared belief in the power of words and the stories they tell. Our exuberant celebration of brilliant theatre seeks to ignite a spark to empower and inspire artists, as well as enlighten and connect audiences and the community. Our festival works to engage the community we serve through our traditional mainstage productions, educational programming to K-12 students, supporting living playwrights and new works, and putting theatre "on the go" through our touring theatre outreach program.

In our first season in 2023, we brought *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to life on our stage, a reimagined scenic interpretation of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. It was a great success for us to be able to bring together talented performers from across the country with actors from our own Chippewa Valley backyard, working together as a collective to tell one of Shakespeare's most produced stories. Also onstage, we produced our first Improbable Fiction new works series, designed to bring new playwrights' works to the forefront of theatrical creation and invest in the artists of today and tomorrow.

The summer also included time spent with the next generation of aspiring artists through classes where students were provided the opportunity to expand their knowledge under certified teachers and theatrical professionals. The Merely Players, a collaborative project between aspiring thespians and professional actors, told original interpretations of Shakespeare's plays to residents of all ages, culminating in eight free public performances that helped to spread our message beyond the walls of Pablo Center at the Confluence.

Our other main focus in Season 1 was community-building. Through initiatives such as our Arts & Ideas discussion series, Industry Night reception, and more, we were able to bring together those in our community who care passionately about theatre (and those who perhaps don't...at least not yet!) to grow and learn from each other as well as share opinions and ideas on the future of theatre and the arts in our region.

In our inaugural season, WSF reached community members as audience members in the Jamf Theatre as well as through our engagement activities across the Chippewa Valley. In total, the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* played to 1,443 audience members, our touring Merely Players troupe connected with 257 community members, and 246 playwrights submitted new works with hopes of being selected to be produced and workshopped during our festival.

Without your partnership, the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival could not continue our mission of serving the Chippewa Valley and aspiring artists through our programming. We invite you to join us in creating the magic on and off stage while building on William Shakespeare's legacy.

Sincerely,



Jen Zwicky
Managing Director
Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival
Pablo Center at the Confluence

WSF Season 1 Numbers

1,984 local community members reached through our first season of programming:

- 1,443 audience members attended *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- 257 patrons took part in a Merely Players performance
- 210 community members attended workshops, talkbacks, and other events
- 74 students took an education class with WSF

246 submissions of new works for our Improbable Fiction series

- 33 states represented
- 6 countries of origin

184 actor auditions submitted from performers living in 29 states

- The actors that we ultimately cast represented 8 of these states!

\$19,500 in grant funding for season 1

- \$7,500 Pablo Foundation – support for Improbable Fiction
- \$6,000 Wisconsin Arts Board – support for our full season programming
- \$3,000 Visit Eau Claire – support for our mainstage series
- \$3,000 Visit Eau Claire – support for Improbable Fiction

50 seasonal staff in our inaugural season, including...

- 17 actors, both local and from outside of our region
- 13 UWEC students in production and internship positions
- 11 artists who were local/had local ties (UWEC grads, etc.)
- 4 UWEC faculty/staff
- 3 DPI certified instructors



“My experience working on Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival’s mainstage production of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ was absolutely spectacular. I had the privilege of collaborating with some of the coolest artists/people that I have ever met. Both offstage and on, everyone involved was enthusiastic, driven, and so, so kind. As an emerging theatre professional, the things I learned during this rehearsal process were invaluable and I couldn’t have asked for a better environment to work in. I really loved that I was able to work both with folks from the Chippewa Valley and people from far away who had never been to Wisconsin. All-in-all, it was a fantastic experience and I can’t wait to see what future seasons have in store!”

EMILY RUTH

Performer in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

Make an Impact - Donate or Sponsor WSF!

We simply could not produce the excellent theatre and programs that we do without the support of our audiences, donors, and sponsors. Below, we list some donor levels and sponsorship opportunities, but gifts in any amount are appreciated and will be put to great use.

DONATION	LEVEL	EXAMPLES OF IMPACT
\$100	Groundlings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional actor workshop with our education students• Craft supplies for our family events throughout the summer• Props for our Merely Players touring shows
\$200	Fools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scripts for actors in our mainstage season• Production costs for Improbable Fiction (costumes, props, etc.)• One week of housing for a mainstage actor, director, or designer
\$400	Blackfriars	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational outreach program (one day/one city)• Public Merely Players troupe performance• Supplies for our entire summer of education programs
\$750	King's Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsor a Player (age 15-22) in our traveling performing troupe• Honorarium for one of our winning Improbable Fiction playwrights• Entertainment for our Night of Revels fundraising event
\$1,000	Poets' Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-week educational camp for 3rd-12th graders• Lights, sound, and projections for our mainstage shows• Support for one Arts Administration summer intern
\$2,000	Queen Elizabeth I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing for one mainstage actor for the entire summer season• Catering for our Night of Revels fundraiser• Sponsors the entire workshop process for one new work play• Printing for full-season playbill

All donors who give at the Groundlings level or above will be recognized in our season playbill.

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

\$5,000
\$10,000
\$15,000
\$20,000
\$30,000
\$50,000
\$70,000
\$75,000

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Receptions & Special Events
Improbable Fiction new works series
Mainstage production costs
Night of Revels gala fundraiser headline sponsor
Merely Players & outreach educational programs
Mainstage housing/hospitality
Mainstage acting company
Mainstage production sponsor (3 available)

Benefits of sponsorship may include recognition and ad/logo placement (website, social media, playbill, pre-show announcements, show posters, e-newsletters, press releases, etc.); reserved performance tickets and drink vouchers; experiences such as meet & greets, pre- or post-show receptions, and backstage tours; discounted tickets for your employees/clients; and more!

Please contact us at wsf@pablocenter.org to establish a sponsorship package that will work for you and your company.