



Alabama Shakespeare Festival

## **The Alabama Shakespeare Festival seeks a Director of Education and Community Engagement**

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival (ASF), the State Theatre of Alabama, is currently seeking a dynamic leader with teaching experience and a passion for inspiring young people to serve as the Director of Education and Community Engagement. The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is a year-round professional LORT theatre housed in a \$21.5 million theatre complex located in Montgomery, Alabama, that annually produces a vibrant season of Shakespeare as well as the classics, plays, musicals, and new works. In addition to ASF's stage productions, ASF serves its community through the Festival's many arts education programs, including SchoolFest, a student-matinee program that provides 30,000 – 40,000 students annually with subsidized tickets for a performance of one of ASF's plays.

### **Job Description:**

A direct report to the Artistic Director, the Director of Education and Community Engagement is a senior member of ASF's leadership team, overseeing all education and engagement programming. The Director is responsible for creating an environment that embraces education, enlightenment, and engagement among its community, students, patrons, artists, and staff. The Director will oversee ASF's popular SchoolFest program, camps, and classes; additionally, the Director will collaborate with the Artistic Director as he seeks to create new community engagement initiatives. The Director will be charged with identifying and integrating existing and new ways to educate and engage audiences with the performing arts and ASF's mainstage productions.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

#### **Management**

- Organize and manage school programs to meet state and school standards
- Oversee SchoolFest matinee program
- Oversee Talk Back program for ASF productions
- Manage ASF Acting Academy classes and ASF Summer Camps, including registrations

#### **Curriculum**

- Oversee writing of study guides and other online education materials
- Develop curriculum using arts-based Alabama State Standards

#### **Programming**

- Regularly assess current programming for effectiveness and quality
- Participate in the creation of new programming when required

#### **Community Engagement**

- Establish and build effective working relationships with community groups, agencies, and school officials
- Engage in Alabama educational policy and local/state school systems
- Collaborate with Artistic Director to develop community engagement programming off-site



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### **Teaching**

- Recruit, hire, train, supervise and evaluate teaching artists for workshops, classes, and camps
- Serves as teaching artist when necessary/appropriate

### **Other Duties**

- Develop strategic long-term program goals and budgets with Artistic Director
- Collaborate with Development and Marketing departments to identify funding and sponsorship for educational and community programs
- Collaborate with grant writer to strengthen education-related proposals
- Other duties as assigned by the Artistic Director

### **Characteristics and experience vital to this position:**

- Five years of experience leading arts education-based organization or department, preferably theatre
- Prior teaching and curriculum development experience
- Be able to articulate and share ASF's mission in public settings
- Interest and understanding of Shakespeare's canon
- Involvement with National Organizations (TYA, TCG, etc.)
- Possess a passion and interest in gaining a knowledge of public education in Alabama
- Experience with budgeting and financial management skills
- Experience in building community relationships
- College degree, preferably a Master's degree, and arts education experience

### **The Alabama Shakespeare Festival**

Founded in 1972, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival began as a summer theatre festival in Anniston, Alabama. The theatre moved to Montgomery in the 1980s after philanthropist Wynton "Red" Blount offered to build a new home for the theatre in a 250-acre park. The state-of-the-art performing arts complex, christened the "Carolyn Blount Theatre," represented the largest gift by an individual donor in the history of American theatre (\$21.5 million) at the time. Mr. Blount's gift of the theatre complex set ASF on the path of continuous artistic success and community service.

Carolyn Blount Theatre houses a Festival Stage (seats 792) and Octagon Stage (seats 262), outdoor amphitheater and garden, production shops, rehearsal halls, and administrative offices. More than one million bricks were used to build the complex, which contains more than 100,000 square feet of space. The late Russell Page, famed landscape architect, planned the English-style grounds and lake that surround the building and make up the stunning core of the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

ASF is the largest professional, producing theatre in Alabama and one of the largest Shakespeare festivals in the world. Since the theatre first opened, millions of adults, children, and families have experienced the joy of theatre by attending ASF productions. ASF produces seven to 10 plays each season, including at least two by William Shakespeare along with a broad offering of contemporary works and large-scale Broadway musicals.



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## Mission and Values

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival builds community by engaging, entertaining, and inspiring people with transformative theatrical performances and compelling educational and outreach programs.

As the region's most valued arts leader and community resource, we strive to build upon our reputation for artistic excellence, broaden our reach throughout the state and beyond, and expand public participation and support.

Our core values include **heritage**: producing work that speaks to the richness of human experience and the uniqueness of our region; **excellence**: sustaining a nurturing, supporting, and creative work environment; **community**: serving as a cultural conduit for community interaction; **accessibility**: embracing diversity and opening our doors to everyone in the community; **life-long learning**: providing unique avenues for personal and collective discovery; and **stewardship**: being reliable stewards of the marvelous resources provided to us.

## Community

*The New York Times* recently recognized Montgomery, Alabama, as one of the top 52 places to visit in the United States, citing revitalized neighborhoods, a bustling downtown, and the many museums and historical sites focusing on the evolution of civil rights.

Montgomery is rich in both historic and cultural offerings for residents and visitors alike, including ASF and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts located in the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park. In addition, other local attractions include the recently opened National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum of the Equal Justice Initiative, National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture, the Rosa Parks Library and Museum, Freedom Rides Museum, and Alabama Nature Center.

As the state capital of Alabama, the city is populated by many state government agencies along with Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, the home of Air University. Montgomery has a vibrant academic community that includes public institutions Alabama State University, Troy University (Montgomery campus), and Auburn University at Montgomery, as well as private schools Faulkner University and Huntingdon College. High-tech manufacturing is also part of the diversification of Montgomery's economic base, which includes such international companies as Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama among others.

Montgomery has won several national awards including Best Historic City by *USA Today*, All-America City in 2014 by the National Civic League, "Top City for Job Growth" in 2014 by ziprecruiter.com, and the "happiest city in Alabama." Montgomery has also been recognized nationally for its downtown revitalization and new urbanism projects. It was one of the first cities in the nation to implement Smart Code Zoning.

## To Apply:

Please send a cover letter and resume to Michael DiLaura, Human Resources Director, at [mdilaura@asf.net](mailto:mdilaura@asf.net).

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates will receive consideration without regard for age, race, religion, gender, identity, or disability.



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