



ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

FACTS AND ACTS

ONE OF THE LARGEST SHAKESPEARE THEATRES

According to the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America, ASF is one of the largest Shakespeare Festivals in the world based on attendance.

LARGEST REGIONAL THEATRE IN THE SOUTHEAST

Alabama Shakespeare Festival was founded as a summer repertory theatre in 1972 and in 1977 was proclaimed the State Theatre of Alabama. Wynton M. Blount generously built the Carolyn Blount Theatre and donated it to the people of Alabama. ASF has grown into the largest regional theatre in the Southeast.

PALLADIO-INSPIRED BUILDING

The Carolyn Blount Theatre, designed by Thomas Blount and Perry Pittman using theories of Andrea Palladio, houses the 792-seat Festival Stage, 262-seat Octagon, two rehearsal halls, costume, scene and props shops, and administrative offices.

BUDGET

A not-for-profit organization, ASF has a budget of \$8.7 million for the 2019-2020 Season. ASF receives grants and contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, the State of Alabama, city and county government, and many state and national foundations.

TOP TOURIST ATTRACTION

ASF is one of the top tourist attractions in Alabama. ASF has attracted more than three million visitors from all 50 states and more than 60 foreign countries.

MEDIA ATTENTION

ASF activities have been recognized in newspapers across the country including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Seattle Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *Miami Herald*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Philadelphia Daily News*, and *Orlando Sentinel*. ASF has also been featured on *USAToday.com*, *NBCSports.com*, and *Playbill.com*.

SEASON PERFORMANCES

During the 2019-2020 Season, ASF will produce 13 plays: Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Million Dollar Quartet*; *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*; *All Is Calm*; Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella*; *Ruby*; *I and You*; *Alabama Story*; *And Then They Came for Me*; *Remembering the World of Anne Frank*; Dr. Seuss's *The Cat In The Hat*; *The Agitators*; and *Pipeline*.

\$20 MILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT

ASF has a \$20 million annual economic impact on central Alabama and is responsible for over 1,000 jobs. It is used by chambers of commerce and other economic developers to attract executives, businesses, and industry to Alabama.

STUDENT MATINEES

SchoolFest, a comprehensive student-matinee program, presents professional theatre to a projected 35,000 students this season from almost every Alabama county, as well as Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE CLASSROOM

ASF tours an abridged Shakespeare play (currently *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) to schools across Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. ASF's fellowship company conducts an hour-long interactive workshop in the classroom to complete the learning process.

CAMP SHAKESPEARE

One-week Camp Shakespeare summer programs are offered to children ages five to twelve. Camp Shakespeare Extreme is for seventh to twelfth graders interested in classical training in acting. Broadway South: Musical Theatre Camp teaches high school students singing and choreography. Weekend Warrior is a weekend camp focusing on stage combat.

PROFESSIONAL ACTORS

ASF actors are professionals belonging to Actors' Equity Association, the actors' union. Most of the actors, designers, and directors come to ASF from New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. ASF's acting graduates have gone on to win Tony Awards (Norbert Leo Butz and Michael Emerson) and an Emmy (Michael Emerson).

EVERYTHING IS HANDMADE

Behind the stages are the shops where costumes, wigs, hats, props, and sets are constructed by professional artisans. Because each play is made entirely by hand and from scratch, theatre is a costly but totally creative and collaborative art form.

ASF INSIGHTS LECTURE SERIES

ASF offers a series of lectures and discussions sponsored by Auburn University at Montgomery. These presentations offer perspectives from scholars, writers, directors, designers, and actors.

THE SOUTHERN WRITERS FESTIVAL

SWF commissions, develops, and produces new plays by Southern writers that explore Southern issues and topics. The Festival of New Plays, hosted by ASF, allows interaction between visiting scholars, critics, producers, playwrights, and the public.

ACTING CLASSES

ASF Academy, taught by professional actors, offers ten-week sessions of acting instruction to both adults and students in grades three to twelve.

PARTNERSHIP WITH MONTGOMERY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ASF is partnering with Montgomery Public Schools (MPS) for its production of *Ruby*. All children's roles will be filled by MPS students. The students will take weekly classes at ASF to learn about theatre and acting. Additional MPS students will design educational exhibits that will be on display in ASF's lobby during the run of the play.