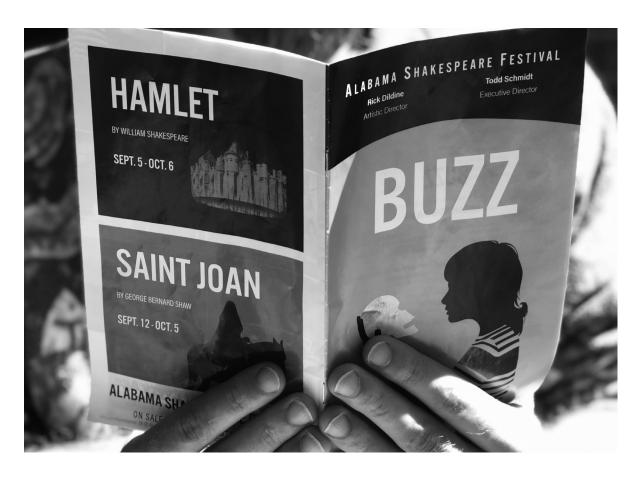


WHAT'S IN YOUR PROGRAM?

Created by Betsy Anne Huggins, Director of Education and Community Engagement



When you give your ticket to an usher to enter the theatre, you'll receive a program. There's tons of information inside a program about the play you are about to watch. The first thing you'll typically see is a letter from the executive staff that explains why the play was selected by the theatre to produce, as well as information about what's next on the performance calendar.

There are a few things to look for in each program. First, check out the cast and crew listing and the bios of those working on the production. You can learn a lot about how many people it takes to produce a play from this list. If you enjoy someone's work, you can find out about shows they've worked on previously and the theatres and educational institutions that have contributed to their success. This is great fodder for research after the show. Actors often list their website or social media handles; you can reach out to them after the play to congratulate them on their performance!



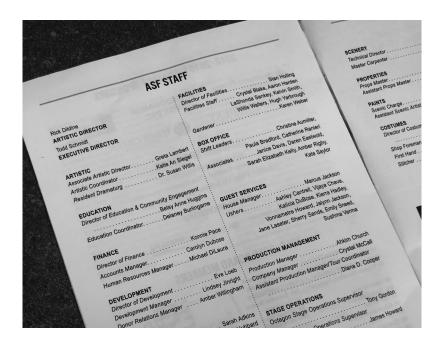
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Other items to look out for are director and playwright notes.
Often, the director and the playwright will provide information about how they approached working on the performance you're seeing. These notes may provide insight into how the production team interpreted a classical piece of work or why the playwright chose to write a new play.

A theatre might also include essays that relate the play to history, politics, or culture. These notes, combined with the director's or playwright's notes, offer a wealth of information about the work you're seeing.





After you've checked out the pertinent information for the performance, flip to the last few pages of the program for the staff listing. It's incredible to see how many people contribute behind the scenes to run the theatre. It might also give you an idea of a career you'd like to explore!

If you enjoyed the performance, check out what's next and make plans to attend a future show!