

## **AD Rick Dildine to Depart Alabama Shakes *National search for new artistic director under way***

**MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Jan. 10, 2024** — After 6 years of service, Rick Dildine will step down as Artistic Director of Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Dildine has accepted the Artistic Director position at Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis, MN. He will continue with Alabama Shakespeare Festival through June 30, 2024.

Rick Dildine’s many achievements include directing the recent productions of A Christmas Carol, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Cabaret. Dildine also expanded ASF’s educational partnership with Montgomery Public Schools, leading to productions of Four Little Girls and Ruby: The Ruby Bridges Story, as well as developing the Fall Festival of Shakespeare.

ASF Board Chair Vanzetta McPherson says, “The ASF family, theater lovers, and the entire community have greatly benefitted from Rick’s artistic expertise and his skillful management of ASF seasons and performances including during the pandemic. As a highly respected director and theater professional, Rick has attracted new and amazing actors, as well as other prominent directors, playwrights, and production experts, to ASF’s stages. We are also grateful for his always cheerful, sensitive management of ASF staff, a trait that has made him a genuine partner in ASF governance. For all these reasons, we will miss him, but we wish him every success in the future.”

Dildine says, “ASF gave me the opportunity to create some marvelous pieces of theatre, and I am incredibly grateful for my time in Alabama. The staff and Board of ASF are exceptional. Together we produced the largest season in ASF’s history, grew subscriptions, survived a global pandemic, launched the largest commissioning program in the southeast, and developed groundbreaking partnerships with the Montgomery Public Schools, Alabama State University, and the Equal Justice Initiative. My life is richer because of my time in Montgomery.”

ASF’s Board of Directors is conducting a national search for its next Artistic Director.

[Alabama Shakespeare Festival](#) is a not-for-profit organization under the direction of Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt. As a beloved Alabama arts institution, ASF broadens the cultural identity of the South by producing the classics, Shakespeare, contemporary plays, musicals, theatre for young audiences, and exciting new works. A leader in education and outreach, ASF serves more than 35,000 students annually with artistic programming. ASF is supported by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about Alabama Shakespeare Festival, visit [ASF.net](#).

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