



American Shakespeare Center  
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I don't think we need to be reminded that Shakespeare is modern, so much as that we ourselves are ancient. That we are no different as humans than our Elizabethan forbearers, that we crave the same things and still find value in being seated uncomfortably close to our sweaty smelly neighbor to watch and listen to a story being told, still hunger for the warmth of our fellow travelers when dusk gives way to night, still long for the reassurance that we are not alone.

**ETHAN McSWEENEY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

## THE BLACKFRIARS PLAYHOUSE RESIDENT COMPANY

In 2001, the world's only re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theatre, the Blackfriars Playhouse, opened in Staunton, Virginia. Since then, hundreds of thousands of audience members from all over the world have visited the Blackfriars, experiencing the joys and accessibility of Shakespeare's theatre, language, and humanity through exploration of the English Renaissance stage and its practices.

### 2020 SUMMER and FALL SEASONS

Contract Period: May through November 2020

- Rotating repertory:
  - *Othello*, Ethan McSweeney director
  - *The Merchant of Venice*, director TBA
  - *Volpone*, director TBA
  - *Keene*, world-premiere by Anchuli Felicia King, Ethan McSweeney director
- Rehearses and performs at the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, VA.
- Equity LOA (referenced to LORT D)
- Non-Equity compensation includes:
  - Health insurance
  - Housing



The cast of *Julius Caesar* 2019. Photo by Lindsey Walters.

## THE AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER ON TOUR

For 31 years, the American Shakespeare Center on Tour has brought Shakespeare to audiences throughout the United States and overseas (6 countries, 47 U.S. states, one U.S. Territory).

ASC on Tour invites audiences to discover plays performed as Shakespeare's company performed them—surrounded by audience members who share the same light and space with the actors. This interactive style allows ASC on Tour to create a strong sense of community between performers and audience, bringing vital immediacy to these classic works.



2018/19 Touring Company at the Blackfriars Playhouse. Repertory: *The Winter's Tale*, *Antigone*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Christmas Carol*, *16 Winters, or the Bear's Tale* (world premiere). Photo by Marek K Photography.

### 2020/21 National Tour

Contract Period: June 2020 through May 2021

- Tours the United States September through November 2020 and mid-January through early-April 2021. Performs in residence at the Blackfriars Playhouse in April and May 2021.
- Rotating repertory: *Twelfth Night* and two additional plays to be announced.
- Performs *A Christmas Carol* at the Blackfriars Playhouse in December 2020.
- Rehearses in Staunton, Virginia late June through early September 2020.
- Compensation includes:
  - Weekly salary
  - Health insurance
  - Housing
  - Most meals while touring
  - Paid vacation
- Each actor plays many roles within the repertory, strengthening their skills and building their resume.



## REPERTORY

### SHAKESPEARE & HIS CONTEMPORARIES

- The American Shakespeare Center has produced all 36 plays in Shakespeare's First Folio (most plays, numerous times), plus *Pericles* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*.
- ASC has produced 36 plays by other Early Modern English playwrights, including Jonson, Marlowe, Middleton, Beaumont, Fletcher, Marston, Massinger, Webster, Chapman, Heywood, Lyly, and Ford. Many of these plays have rarely or never been produced professionally since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- In addition to Early Modern plays, the ASC has produced plays from the Restoration through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### SHAKESPEARE'S NEW CONTEMPORARIES

- Launched by the ASC in 2017, Shakespeare's New Contemporaries is a groundbreaking, industry-changing undertaking to discover, develop, and produce a new canon of 38 plays that are inspired by and in conversation with Shakespeare's work. It's an opportunity for playwrights of every gender, race, and creed to partner with Shakespeare. It's our chance to find the next generation of the world's greatest playwrights.
- Amy E. Witting's *Anne Page Hates Fun* (companion to *The Merry Wives of Windsor*) and Mary Elizabeth Hamilton's *16 Winters, or the Bear's Tale* (companion to *The Winter's Tale*) were selected as the inaugural winners. Both were produced at the Blackfriars Playhouse in 2019. The second-round winners, Anchuli Felicia King's *Keene* (companion to *Othello*) and Emma Whipday's *The Defamation of Cively Lee* (companion to *Cymbeline*) will be produced in 2020.



Classical Theatre of Harlem's Artistic Director Ty Jones receives the American Shakespeare Center's 2018 Burbage Award from ASC Artistic Director, Ethan McSweeney, with the 2018 Resident and Touring companies. Photo by Photo by Lisa Mims.

## SOME NOTABLE AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER ALUMNI

- Susan Heyward**—Broadway: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *The Trip to Bountiful*; Off-Broadway: Manhattan Theatre Club (*Ruined*), Atlantic Theatre Company (*The Purple Lights of Joppa Illinois*); Film/TV: *Orange Is the New Black*, *Powers*, *Vinyl*, *The Following*.
- Dylan Paul**—Broadway: *Cabaret*, *Moulin Rouge*; Folger Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Illinois Shakespeare Festival.
- Shirine Babb**—Broadway: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *Macbeth*; NY/Regional: Roundabout, Folger Theatre, Long Wharf/Huntington; Film/TV: *Blue Bloods*, *Madam Secretary*.
- Ronald Peet**—Off-Broadway: “Daddy”. Atlantic Theater Company, Lincoln Center, Roundabout, Williamstown Theater Festival, Ars Nova, La MaMa, Barrington Stage Company; Film/TV: *The Meyerowitz Stories*, *Girls*, *Defectives*.
- Raffi Barsoumian**—Broadway: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*; New York: *Privacy* (with Daniel Radcliffe), *Pericles* (Public Theatre); Regional: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles (Hotspur/Pistol in *Henry IV* with Tom Hanks); Film/TV: *The Vampire Diaries*, *Shameless*.
- Davis McCallum**—Artistic Director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. New York: *Fashions for Men*, *The Whale*, *Water by the Spoonful*, *London Wall*; Regional: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Guthrie, The Old Globe, The Pearl, and The Acting Company.
- Cliff Chamberlain**—Broadway: *Superior Donuts*, *The Minutes*; ensemble member of Steppenwolf Theatre; TV/Film: *Altered Carbon*, *Law & Order True Crime*, *Arrow*, *State of Affairs*, *Grey’s Anatomy*.
- Tracie Lane**—Utah Shakespeare Festival, Tennessee Shakespeare Company, Houston Shakespeare Festival, Stages Repertory Theatre, Classical Theatre Company, American Stage Theatre Company, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre. Juilliard Group 48.
- Kate Eastwood Norris**—Regional: Berkeley Rep, Actors’ Theatre of Louisville, Two River Theatre, Folger Theatre, Round House Theatre, Woolly Mammoth; Film: *Macbeth*; winner of two Helen Hayes Awards.
- Alyssa Wilmoth Keegan**—Regional: Ford’s Theatre (*Come from Away*), Round House Theatre, Mosaic Theatre, Kennedy Center, Woolly Mammoth; winner of 2018 Helen Hayes Award for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.
- Thomas Keegan**—Broadway: *Slave Play*; Regional: Round House Theatre, Arena Stage, Ford’s Theatre; TV: *Turn*, *Veep*, *Madam Secretary*, *Elementary*.
- Chaon Cross**—Regional: Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Court Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Cleveland Playhouse; TV/Film: *Chicago Fire*, *The Boss*, *My Dog Skip*; nominated for two Joseph Jefferson Awards.
- James Patrick Nelson**—NY/Regional: Bedlam (*Pygmalion*), Classic Stage Company, Folger Theatre/American Repertory Theatre (*Sense and Sensibility*), Berkeley Rep, Mirror Rep.
- Ellen Adair**—NY/Regional: Mint Theatre, Fiasco Theatre (*Cymbeline*), Pearl Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Commonwealth Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Folger Theatre; TV/Film: *Homeland*, *Billions*, *The Slap*, *Veep*.
- Evan Hoffmann**—Producing Artistic Director of the NextStop Theatre. Regional: Ford’s Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, Olney Theatre, Baltimore Centerstage, American Century Theatre.
- Christopher Salazar**—Regional/NY: Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Old Globe Theatre, NY Public Theatre, Primary Stages, Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, Portland Center Stage, Gorilla Rep, Barter Theatre. Film/TV: *Jane the Virgin*, *The Playground*.