

Shakespeare

Winter 2008: HVSF is the case study for a class at Columbia Business School. Led by Joe Plummer, the students offer terrific ideas and analysis for the Festival. We integrate many of their findings into the 23rd season planning. We are excited about the season's offerings: there is something for everyone. The economy is making us nervous and we are putting our already lean budget under the microscope to see where we can make cuts.

Spring 2009: Auditions, auditions, auditions. Casting begins, but as arts organizations around the country start to fail we begin contingency planning. Hiring of actors is put on hold and we deliberate our options. Do we revert back to our old tent? Do we take a season off? Ticket sales account for 60% of our budget. If attendance is down we are in trouble. We know two things: we will not compromise our artistic product, and we want to keep our tickets affordable. More budget work; more worries; but we think our season is terrific so we move ahead. The acting company is hired and rehearsals begin.

Summer 2009: Our season opens and so do the skies. It rains and rains and rains. But something marvelous also happens. Our audience comes. We have a whole new series of audience enrichment programs and they are selling out. Our shows are hits. (Check out our review highlights.) We have record attendance including many new people from around the country. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reads review of *Pericles* in *The New York Times* and the Clintons attend its final performance. Our summer was made glorious by our loyal audience and supporters. We thank all of you, because we would not and could not be here without you.

Now it all starts again.

HVSF Awarded NEA Grants!



Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is one of 37 theater companies receiving a grant of \$25,000 to participate in Shakespeare for a New Generation, a national initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest, from June 1, 2009-May 31, 2010. NEA's Shakespeare for a New Generation targets middle and high school students, introducing young people to the power of live theater and the masterpieces of William Shakespeare. Each of the participating companies will present productions of Shakespeare plays with accompanying educational activities to at least 10 schools.

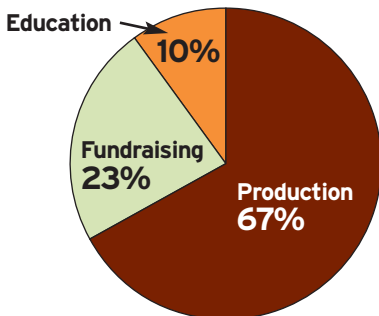
The Festival is also one of six participating organizations that will receive an additional grant of \$10,000 as part of a partnership with the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. These grants, which are supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the U.S. Department of Justice, will support performances and educational activities targeted to youth involved with the juvenile justice system.

"The OJJDP grant will allow us to invest further in the lives of at-risk youth, helping us to

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Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton with the cast of Pericles.

2008
Distribution of Revenues



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encourage them to find their own voices while also working to change the way they perceive not only Shakespeare but themselves and their communities," said Christopher V. Edwards, HVSF's Director of Education.

"We are very grateful to President Obama for his ongoing support of the Arts, and to the NEA for its grants to support our efforts in the schools," said Terrence O'Brien, Founding Artistic Director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. "It is an honor to receive the recognition from the NEA and to be included in such esteemed company."

Letter from the Co-Presidents

We offer our thanks to you, our audience, for making this a season of surprise and delight. Surprise, because it rained in June and July - it rained hard and often - and you came anyway. Surprise, because so many conjectured that theater would not be part of "staycation" plans, but you proved them wrong. And delight because we sold more tickets than ever before.

We wish this were the end of the story, but ticket sales cover less than two-thirds of our needs. We must meet our obligations, improve our facilities and build our staff in order to sustain the efforts made this season. And so, we have to ask you to donate to the Festival you showed such loyalty to this summer. Please consider making whatever contribution you can.

We thank you so much,
Belle Newton and Sheila Rauch

"Populism without pandering: That's the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's style, and I've never seen it go wrong."

Terry Teachout, The Wall Street Journal



Pericles rehearsals May 2009



"(HVSF) delivers a 'Pericles' that is lively, picturesque and picaresque, while stressing its deeper, fable like qualities."

Ben Brantley, The New York Times

Pericles 2009

Do you have two minutes?

It seems to me that everywhere I go this year, when I'm among a group of artists or theater professionals, the conversations revolve around serious discussions of "the work." About what inspires them, why they make certain choices. I don't hear long-winded laments about jobs missed, or plans about getting a new agent, or which movies grossed the most in the first week. People aren't talking about their careers or the business. People are talking with great excitement and commitment about the thing they love to do, and the ways in which it can affect people. It's almost as though the uncertainty and hardship of the current economy has people simplifying their lives and gravitating to the things that are most important to them and give them the most satisfaction. Their families and friends, and their work.

And this is true for our audience as well. In the midst of pessimistic predictions of poor attendance, HVSF had a record season this year, critical success all around, and record attendance (in spite of the frequent rain!). And arts organizations around the country reported great successes.

Our acting company pulled out all the stops this year and did an incredible job rehearsing three productions simultaneously and opening them on three consecutive Saturday nights.

Terrence O'Brien, Founding Artistic Director

A Midsummer Night's Dream will be HVSF's 2010 touring production.

This wonderful play is a perfect way to introduce Shakespeare to young people across the region. The production will focus on the language, characters and the relationship between audience and actor without dumbing down the text, thus making the story memorable and accessible. *Midsummer* will tour March 15th - April 30th and is approximately 90 minutes long. It will be followed by a 20 minute talk-back with the actors after the performance. For more information, please contact education@hvshakespeare.org, or call the HVSF office at 845-265-7858.

Education Corner

Once again we say goodbye to the warmth and comfort of summer in the Hudson Valley...well, maybe I should rather say goodbye to the rain and chill of the summer of 2009. What an amazing season we were all privileged to be a part of. Along with the wonderful artistry under the HVSF tent at Boscobel, the education programs experienced a rewarding summer. This summer we continued to expand our **Windows-on-Will** series with two workshop offerings for audience members. For the first year we offered a **Teacher Appreciation Week** for all of the teachers we work with throughout the region. Enthusiasm was high for all who participated in workshops with Don Foster, Terry O'Brien and me. We look forward to bringing back workshops next year to continue to say thank you to

teachers. **Family Nights** workshops were a huge success this year, with attendance way up from last year. Families participated in interactive workshops with artists from our company, and everyone had a fun-filled time exploring Shakespeare together. Along with the success of this program our **Summer Students -on-Stage** program grew. Our

workshops with the **Chappaqua Summer Scholarship Program** (a program that likens itself to an academic "fresh air" experience) became more in depth and we received wonderful feedback from students and teachers alike. Working with students four times a week for a month, we explored the themes, language and characters in *Much Ado About Nothing*. The students enjoyed the culminating event of coming to see *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Festival. This year we created a relationship with the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, New York, where we will work with middle and high school students who have extended stays in the hospital. This program is challenging, but possibly one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever been a part of. Thanks to our NEA grant and funding from the hospital we will work with the students in 2010 and look forward to expanding the program over the long term.

Fall education activities are shaping up nicely. On September 25th we were awarded a lifetime achievement award by the New York State Theater Education Association at their 25th anniversary conference. We presented a conference-wide workshop that was fun, enlightening and well-received. Our fall bookings include workshops at the United States Military Academy at West Point and The Master's School; and residencies with a large group of homeschoolers and at the Phoenix Academy, our ongoing program working with incarcerated youth.

In March 2010 we will be taking a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on tour throughout the region and we look forward to growing the programs as we move into our 16th year of educational theater programs. That said, we could not and would not be able to be as successful as we have been without the continued commitment and hard work of our amazing administrative staff, actors, teaching artists and production staff. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year a success for our Education Programs.

Christopher Edwards, Director of Education

HVSF Honored By New York State Theatre Education Association

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from The New York State Theatre Education Association on Saturday, September 26. The annual educators' conference was held the weekend of September 25 -27, 2009 at Good Counsel Academy in White Plains, NY.

Said Flori Doyle of NYSTEA, "(HVSF's) commitment to theatre education is exemplified by how they have made Shakespeare accessible to us and our students. Over the years, many of us have attended productions at HVSF and some of our students have participated in the popular apprenticeship program held over the summer. The **Artists-in-Residence** programs have proved successful in several Hudson Valley schools and the workshops provided by their artists are outstanding. In recent years, the summer program for educators has received high praise and the full-length productions that visit our schools have been nothing less than palpable hits! Additionally, the support and guidance given to teachers is valuable and appreciated."

"Far and wide, there is not another evening to compare. Watching the actors crest the hill above the Hudson accompanied by a swell of orchestral music, I felt the twin restoratives of nature and theater and thought 'Why on earth did it take me so long to get here?'"

The Record Review



Kate Suffern, Craig Mungavin, Mike Roush - The Winter's Tale

Report from Ashland, October 2009

I was invited to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival with eight other artists from around the country for a 10-day workshop exploring Nexthetics (the term for hip-hop and spoken word aesthetics) and the intersection between classical theater and hip-hop. We worked with the Festival's Artistic Director, acting company, education department, and dramaturgs - 25 people working together. The other invited artists included breakdancers, college professors, directors, playwrights and spoken word artists. Quite a bit of creativity is flowed in the rehearsal space with a true sense of collaboration permeating the air.

Chris Edwards

HVSF FOLIO



HUDSON VALLEY



Shakespeare

FESTIVAL

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Cold Spring, NY 10516
www.hvshakespeare.org

Boscobel 2010

The board and staff of Boscobel House & Gardens are looking forward to the 2010 season of the Shakespeare Festival - and the continuation of a fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership with HVSF that began in 1987! In 2008, Boscobel inaugurated a new exhibition gallery with a show of Hudson River School landscapes of scenes of the Hudson Highlands. The 2009 exhibit was also of 19th century landscapes, but encompassing a broader geographical scope and work by women artists. In 2010 plans are underway for a show of Currier & Ives prints. Currier & Ives were enormously popular in their time and well into the middle of the 20th century. But it has been some time since a select exhibition of some of their premier prints has been mounted in an important venue, such as Boscobel's. The Exhibition Gallery has already proven to be a popular addition to Boscobel's menu of House tours, gorgeous grounds and special events.



(Above)
Kurt Rhoads,
Jason O'Connell,
Christopher V. Edwards,
- *The Complete Works
of William Shakespeare
(Abridged)*

Wish List!

- Golf cart with working headlights
- Car or van to transport our acting company
- Material for costumes
- Washing machine
- Sewing machine
- Storage space
- Video camera
- Laptop for the production office
- Color printer
- Copy machine

Gift Certificates

It's hard to believe, but the holidays are right around the corner! Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival gift certificates are the perfect holiday gift for that someone who has everything or for your clients and colleagues. And your holiday generosity also helps support the Festival and its programs!

Gift certificates can be used to purchase tickets, picnics, or gourmet delicacies and tee shirts at our concessions tent. They can be ordered online at www.hvshakespeare.org or by calling our office at 845-265-7858.

Don't miss out on this unique holiday gift idea!



This event is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.