

CINCINNATI  
*Shakespeare*  
COMPANY

+

*Stratford*  
FESTIVAL

## STRATFORD FESTIVAL DONOR TRIP

JUNE 17 – 22, 2025

*“I thought this was the trip of a lifetime.”*

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company invites you to join us for our Donor Trip to the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario! Come along with us for 5 days of theatre, art, culture, and conversation with some of your favorite CSC artists.

The Stratford Shakespeare Festival is North America's largest classical repertory theatre company, presenting a dozen or more productions each season in four distinctive venues. Renowned for its innovative approach to Shakespeare, the Festival also stages a dynamic mix of classics, contemporary dramas, and musicals, attracting audiences from around the globe.

Your Trip Includes:

- **Tickets to five productions** across three theaters at the Stratford Festival (A+ Seating Zones in all theaters)
- **Five-night hotel stay** at The Arden Park Hotel, within walking distance of the Festival theaters
- **5 Group Meals**, including a picnic on the beautiful Avon River
- **Special Event:** “Re-Imagining Shakespeare” with Chris Wiegand, Stage Editor for *The Guardian*, and Stratford Artistic Director Antoni Cimolino
- Assorted **backstage tours, artist chats, and workshops** with the Festival team.



*Built in 1953, the Festival Theatre's revolutionary thrust stage provides a theatrical experience so profound, it has inspired look-alikes around the world. Originally housed in a tent, the stage now sits in an iconic example of Modernist architecture. Photo: Richard Bain*

*“Thank you so much for all of your efforts in providing such an outstanding trip for us. We have come away with a deeper understanding of the theatre which as a member of the audience is much appreciated as it enriches our experience. I also so enjoyed the group that we shared this with as I made wonderful connections. All-in-all a near perfect trip.”*

Pricing is \$4,700 per single guest or \$8,900 per couple. Commitment is kindly requested by February 28, 2025.

Please note that guests are responsible for: their transportation costs to, from, and within Stratford (except where otherwise specified); as well as any meals, excursions, or extras not provided by CSC.

This Donor Trip is a fundraising event supporting Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. A portion of your fee may be recognized as a charitable contribution. Contact Director of Development, Sara Clark, at 513.381.2273 ext. 3208 with questions.

## ITINERARY

Tuesday, June 17

- ❖ Arrival in Stratford, Ontario (transportation to Stratford is on your own)
- ❖ Check in at [The Arden Park Hotel](#)
  - ✓ Free, onsite parking and Wi-Fi for all guests included in five-night stay.
  - Full-service restaurant onsite.
- ❖ Group Welcome Dinner in the Marquee Room at the Festival Theatre
- ❖ Evening performance of [As You Like It](#) at the Festival Theatre

Wednesday, June 18

- ❖ Backstage Tour of the Festival Theatre with Technical Director Robbin Cheesman
- ❖ Group Lunch, location TBD
- ❖ Evening performance of [Sense and Sensibility](#) at the Festival Theatre

Thursday, June 19

- ❖ Private Tour of Costume and Prop Warehouse
- ❖ Interactive Workshop: *Performing Shakespeare*
- ❖ Group Lunch, location TBD
- ❖ Evening Performance of [Forgiveness](#) at the Tom Patterson Theatre
- ❖ Post-show Artist Chat

Friday, June 20

- ❖ Special Event: [Re-Imagining Shakespeare with The Guardian](#)
- ❖ Group Lunch, location TBD
- ❖ Evening Performance of [The Winter's Tale](#) at the Tom Patterson Theatre

Saturday, June 21

- ❖ Matinee performance of [Dirty Rotten Scoundrels](#) at the Avon Theatre
- ❖ Post-show Artist Chat
- ❖ Group Farewell Dinner, location TBD

*Exact details of travel itinerary are still being confirmed and are subject to changes and updates.*

*“For me, the trip was an intellectual, emotional, and social feast. Spending a week with a dozen people I did not know particularly well, but sharing with those people a love for theatre, history, learning, and travel, has left me more revitalized than any vacation I have taken in a very, very long time.”*



Festival Theatre, Photo by Terry Manzo



Head of Wigs and Makeup Gerry Altenburg. Photo by Erin Samuell.



Prop builder Carolyn Horley puts the finishing touches on faux desserts. Photo by Erin Samuell.





The Forest of Arden, reimagined in this production, sees its pastoral calm upended by the arrival of a motley cast of courtiers, fools, dukes and ladies exiled from the pitiless world of court politics and dynastic succession. The latest arrivals: Orlando, banished by his cruel older brother after their father's death, and Rosalind who, in her attempt to flee an equally cruel uncle, arrives on the scene disguised as a boy. When Orlando and Rosalind fall for one another, the question then becomes, can Orlando recognize the object of his affection through her cunning disguise and Arden's shaded vales? Beloved for its wit and banter, *As You Like It* promises classic Shakespearean comedy befitting of modern audiences.



Kate Hamill's adaptation of Jane Austen's beloved novel follows the travails of the Dashwood sisters—sensible, subdued Elinor and the passionately emotional Marianne—after their father's passing leaves their family dependent on the whims of wealthy relations. When suitors, both suitable and otherwise, start courting the Dashwood girls, the sisters must blend sense with sensibility to protect their hearts and their reputations. Bristling with wit, cutting social commentary and old-fashioned romance brimming with longing and tender affection, *Sense and Sensibility* is pure Regency Period delight.



Adapted from the Canada Reads-winning memoir by Mark Sakamoto, *Forgiveness* tells the story of two people traumatized but not broken by the Second World War. Mitsue Sakamoto and her family are sent to a civilian internment camp in the Canadian interior after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ralph MacLean joins the Canadian army and endures years of privation in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. When the conflict ends, Mitsue and Ralph are forced to confront their long-buried anger and grief when Mitsue's son and Ralph's daughter fall in love. An emotional map across time, this story of love and family is a testament to the power of choosing forgiveness over hatred.



Blinded by jealousy, King Leontes falsely accuses his pregnant wife of infidelity, setting into motion a series of catastrophes that will destroy his wife and son and leave his infant daughter abandoned to the elements on a distant island. Seeing the folly of his ways, Leontes vows to live out his days atoning for his actions. Sixteen years later, the king is offered an unlikely chance at redemption. A late play from Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale* offers a beguiling blend of comedy, tragedy and mystery.



Lawrence Jameson is no stranger to the high life—he's lived it for years by separating lonely rich ladies from their fortunes in a swanky Riviera town. When he and his chief competitor in the con business, Freddy Benson, make a bet to swindle an heiress out of \$50,000, the professional scoundrels soon discover they may not always be the smartest people in the room. Inspired by the hit 1988 film *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, the musical comedy earned 11 Tony Award nominations for its hilarious hijinks and frivolity—beautifully reminiscent of an earlier age.



Join us and Chris Wiegand, stage editor for *The Guardian*, one of the world's most respected and revered newspapers. Shakespeare's characters, plotlines, and language have proven timeless, giving artists and directors the freedom to explore various genres and eras. While there are traditionalists who strongly believe that Shakespeare should only be presented in period costumes with swords, others embrace the chance to connect with audiences through modern interpretations. Journalist Chris Wiegand talks with the Festival's Artistic Director, Antoni Cimolino, and Chris Abraham, director of *As You Like It*, about the ongoing journey of reimagining the Bard's work.

## TRAVELING WITH YOU



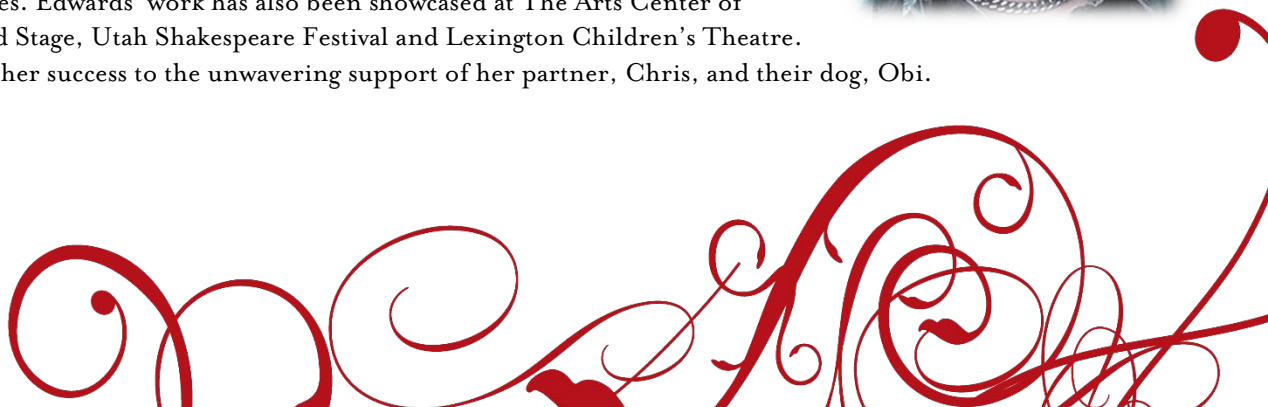
Brian Isaac Phillips (Producing Artistic Director & CEO, 26th Season) has been leading the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company since 2003. During his tenure, Mr. Phillips has guided the organization to artistic and financial success, including the opening of The Otto M. Budig Theater, a \$17.5MM world-class facility at the corner of 12th and Elm Streets in OTR, as well as the completion of Shakespeare's 38 play canon, making CSC one of the first five theatres in the United States to accomplish this milestone. Mr. Phillips, originally from Pittsburgh, PA, is a graduate of Morehead State University and has been a resident of Cincinnati for over two decades. In that time he has collaborated with almost every arts organization in the region. He is a proud member of

Actor's Equity Association and the Stage Director's and Choreographer's Society. In 2020, Mr. Phillips was awarded the international Shakespeare Theatre Association's prestigious Sidney Berger Award for excellence in artistic direction. He has been named one Cincinnati Magazine's 300 Most Powerful Business Leaders for the past four years. Mr. Phillips was also nominated three times for the SDCF Zelda Fichandler Award for outstanding artistic contribution to our region. Mr. Phillips was recognized by Cincinnati Mayors Aftab Pureval, John Cranley, and Mark Mallory for service at CSC and to the city of Cincinnati. In 2016, Mr. Phillips graduated from Cincinnati USA Chamber's 39th Class of Leadership Cincinnati. Also in 2016, Mr. Phillips was selected as a finalist for the Business Courier's 2016 C-Suite Awards for Chief Executive Officer. Most recent CSC directing credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *King Lear*, *The Living Dead*, *All the Way*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *August: Osage County*, *1984*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Dracula*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest* (Co-Director), *The Elephant Man*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Birds*, and *The Great Gatsby*.



Sara Clark (Director of Development, 19th Season) has made a home at Cincinnati Shakespeare Company for the past 19 years as an actor, director, teacher, and fundraiser. Currently serving as Director of Development, Sara manages all philanthropic activities for the organization, raising over \$1.8MM annually in support of Shakespeare and the Classics. As a member of the Resident Ensemble, she has racked up over 75 productions with CSC, tackling such roles as Rosalind, Juliet, Marc Antony, Elizabeth Bennet, Lady Macbeth, and Hamlet. In 2016, Sara was nominated for the Cincinnati Business Courier's 40 Under 40 Awards. In 2018, she led the team that produced the Shakespeare Theatre Association Annual Conference, bringing theatre companies from around the globe to Cincinnati. In 2019, Sara wrote and delivered a talk at TEDxCincinnatiWomen titled "Hamlet, Thy Name is Woman."

Rainy Edwards (Associate Production Manager and Resident Costume Designer, 7<sup>th</sup> Season) joined Cincinnati Shakespeare Company as Resident Costume Designer in 2018, hailing from Llano, Texas, and having completed her MFA in costume design at Florida State University. Her work on recent productions – from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to *The Play that Goes Wrong* – has been lauded for its beauty and attention to detail, enhancing the storytelling and visual appeal of each show. As a key member of the production team, her leadership and meticulous approach have elevated the overall quality of the company's productions. Colleagues and friends at Cincy Shakes celebrate her ability to bring characters to life through costumes, creating an immersive experience for audiences. Edwards' work has also been showcased at The Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Triad Stage, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Lexington Children's Theatre. She attributes much of her success to the unwavering support of her partner, Chris, and their dog, Obi.







LETTER OF GIFT INTENT

I want to go to Stratford with CSC!

In order to participate in the Stratford Festival Tour, I/we promise to make a gift to Cincinnati Shakespeare Company in the amount of:  \$4,700 (one guest)  \$8,900 (two guests)

This Donor Trip is a fundraising event supporting Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. A portion of your fee may be recognized as a charitable contribution.

Name(s):

Preferred Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone: E-Mail:

Reservation Deposit

A deposit of \$500 kindly requested by February 28, 2025. Final payment is due to CSC by April 1, 2025.

- I would like to make my deposit payment now. Please send me a reminder in advance of the final payment deadline.
 I would like to pay in full now.

Payments

- Please accept my gift payment of \$ enclosed by Check No.
 I will make my gift by credit card. Please call me to process my payment.
 I will make my gift of appreciated stock and/or securities. Contact Sara Clark (Sara.Clark@cincyshakes.com, 513.381.2273 x 3208) for instructions on making a stock transfer.

Because travel arrangements and tickets must be reserved several months in advance, your payment is not refundable. However, if you are unable to travel due to illness or other adverse circumstance, we will happily work with you to recognize your gift as a donation, or apply your payment to a future travel opportunity with CSC.

Recognition

- This is how I/we would like this gift to be recognized:
(Please PRINT or type name(s) as you would like it to appear in donor recognition materials.)
 Please do not publish my name in donor recognition materials. I/we prefer to remain anonymous.

This Letter of Gift Intent will serve as a pledge that will be enforced upon receipt.

Donor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return to:
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Attn: Development, 217 W. 12th St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Contact Director of Development, Sara Clark, with questions: 513.381.2273 ext. 3208 or Sara.Clark@cincyshakes.com

