



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



ABOUT FACE THEATRE

MISSION & VISION

About Face Theatre advances LGBTQ+ equity through community building, education, and performance.

We envision an affirming and equitable world in which all LGBTQ+ individuals are thriving and free from prejudice and discrimination.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff and board of About Face Theatre honor and uplift that Chicago is the homeland of the original stewards and guardians of Chicagoland: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Their alliance is known as The Council of Three Fires, first formed in the year 796 of the common era at Mishimikinaak, also known as Mackinac Island, in Michigan. These peoples did, and do still exist. Without their committed stewardship, we would not be enjoying this place today.

We also recognize and acknowledge the enslaved Africans who have lived, been subjugated to free labor, and toiled the grounds where many theatres have been built and resurrected. This organization, and the people behind it, believe that Black Lives Matter. We cannot serve our mission to advance LGBTQ+ equity without including the voices of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) in everything we do and create.

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A Message From

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MEGAN CARNEY (SHE/HER)

I've always loved the concept of an artistic home. I first associated this idea with a specific location but have come to understand that the right set of conditions can cultivate a sense of home and belonging anywhere.

At About Face Theatre we cultivate a sense of belonging through open and transparent communication, flexible processes, and a willingness to try new ideas. It takes relationships, built on trust and shared understanding, for any of us to be fully ourselves and thrive. It's a very similar set of skills needed to bring a new play into the world. And, like a new play, the details are not one size fits all.

This was a big year for us and we had plenty of opportunities to stretch and grow. Through dynamic world premieres and bold experiments, we came upon some wonderful discoveries that you will read about in this report. Some of the biggest delights of the season occurred in the space of audience participation. Through vibrant partnerships, especially with our friends at Silk Road Rising, we got to welcome many new people through our doors for *Mosque4Mosque*. For *Gender Play*, we crafted fresh opportunities for audience interaction

that unfolded anew with each performance. And with the introduction of our newest program, Re/Generation Studio, we further blurred the lines between audience and performer with a series of interactive workshops that invited everyone to join the creative process.

Throughout the year we experienced growing momentum and a big leap in attendance for all of our shows and programs. Basking in creative processes and soaking up bold LGBTQ+ stories connects us to each other. Belonging leads us to courage and collective power. This is how About Face Theatre continues to stand up to hate and defy the odds. With you by our side, working together, we'll keep building and sustaining an artistic home in which different LGBTQ+ imaginations and courageous acts can flourish.

In solidarity and gratitude,


Megan Carney
Artistic Director

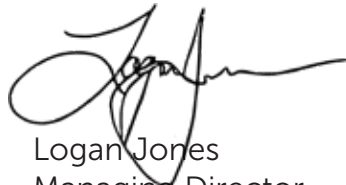
A Message From **MANAGING DIRECTOR** LOGAN JONES (HE/HIM)

At its core, any organization is a collective of people—a community. As I reflect on About Face Theatre’s 28th season, the idea of community stands out as the guiding value that tied together a big year for the company. The programming on our stage, the people who joined us along the way, the process of moving into a new home—every aspect of the past year focused on building and deepening connections with the communities that make AFT thrive.

For a while there, everyone seemed to be talking about when we would get back to normal as if some elusive end goal was just out of reach. I don’t imagine that we will “return to normal” anytime soon. Having now completed two years of live programming after the pandemic shut the world down, the normalcy that I have found is in the knowledge that every process is going to be different. Honing a skill set rooted in adaptability has allowed AFT to remain responsive to the individual needs of each project and the people

involved. While there may no longer be a predictable one-size-fits-most approach, I believe there is a distinctly joyful reward in listening to the needs of our community and responding by building spaces where new ideas can flourish.

As I scroll back through the photos from the many projects and artists that AFT shared space with this year, I’m filled with a warm feeling of gratitude. To each individual artist, Board member, donor, attendee, colleague, and friend who trusted AFT to be a home for your stories and a space for you to see yourself, thank you for being part of our community. We see you, we love you, and we are so honored that you are here with us.



Logan Jones
Managing Director



THE PEOPLE OF ABOUT FACE

STAFF

Megan Carney
Artistic Director

Logan Jones
Managing Director

Audrey Kleine
Operations & Production Manager

Briana Wilson
Development Manager (Jan-June 2023)

Charles Riffenburg
Marketing Manager & Graphic Designer

Theo Wampuszyc
Pen Wilder
Green Room Collective Participants

Ruby Muñoz
Bookkeeper

Cathy Taylor Public Relations
Publicist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chair, Treasurer

Lisa Boden
Vice-Chair

Sheldon Brown
Adithi Chandrashekar
Artist Representatives

Amy Hutchison
John Paul Massi
Taylor Mason
Linsea Moon Waugh

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Scott Bradley
Sheldon Brown
Mikael Burke
Scott Duff
Armand Fields
John Francisco
Keira Fromm

Bob Kuhn
Elizabeth Ledo
Lexi Saunders
Kelli Simpkins
Benjamin Sprunger
Paul Oakley Stovall
Mieka van der Ploeg
Alex Weisman

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES EMERITI

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Alexandra Billings
William Boles
Precious Brady-Davis
Joel Butler
Megan Carney
Brad Cawley
Geoffrey M Curley
Jane C. Cho
Philip Dawkins
Shelley Echerd
Mark Emerson
Mitchell Fain
Scott Ferguson
Steve Futterman
Brian Goodman
Sarah Gubbins
David Hyman

Kyle Hall
Ted Hoerl
Eric Hoff
Jessica Hudson
Patricia Kane
SK Kerastas
Delia Kropp
Julia Fabris McBride
James McKay
Amy Matheny
Jacob Padron
Andre Pluess
Dida Ritz
Rebecca Rugg
Tanya Saracho
Arturo Soria
Daniel Stermer

2022-2023 PROGRAMMING

SEASON 28 TIMELINE

About Face Theatre was busy all year producing a wide range of compelling programs. From new play development to full productions to touring workshops, AFT engaged our community through a wide array of programming.



Clearing Space

Sept 24, 2022
at Chicago Live! on
Navy Pier

Learn more on page 11



Mosque4Mosque

Nov 17 – Dec 17, 2022
at The Den Theatre

Learn more on page 13



Re/Generation Studio

Jan 28, 2023
at AFT and
Feb 18 – March 10, 2023
at The Den Theatre

Learn more on page 15



Gender Play, or what you Will

May 4 – June 3, 2023
at The Den Theatre

Learn more on page 17



Leather Daddies workshop

June 12–18, 2023
at AFT & The Den
Theatre

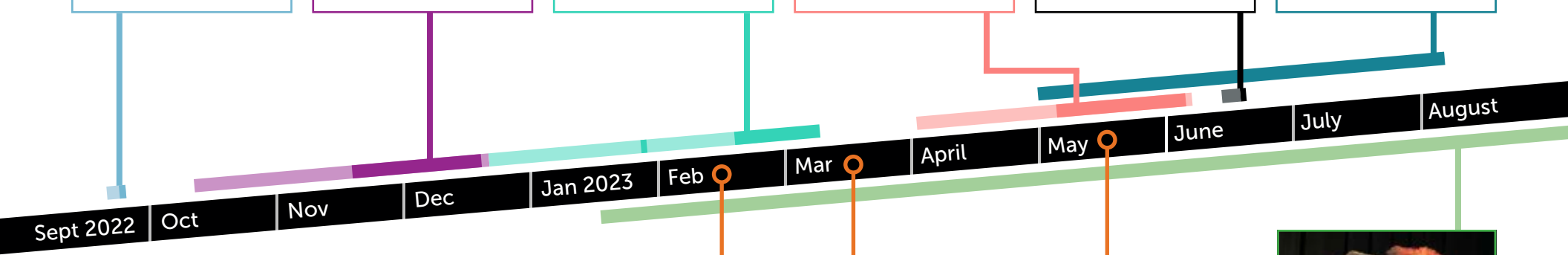
Learn more on page 20



office move

May - Aug, 2023

Learn more on page 23



- Pre-production / rehearsals / workshops
- Public performances
- Singular events

**AFT @ Beth Emet,
Sacred Choices retreat**
Feb 11, 2023

**AFT @ Highland Park
Focus on the Arts**
April 19, 2023

**Leppen Leadership
Award Ceremony**
May 14, 2023

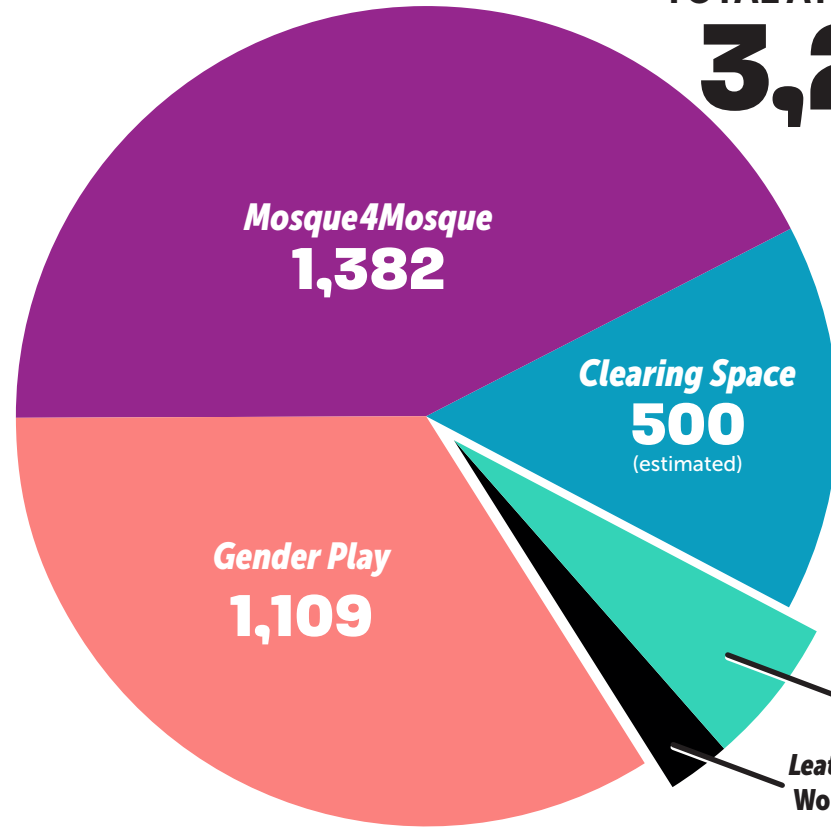


Green Room Collective
Jan – Aug, 2023
Learn more on page 12

SEASON 28 AT A GLANCE

TOTAL ATTENDANCE
3,266

↑ 32%
higher than last season



 **56** TOTAL LIVE PERFORMANCES

 **3** WORLD PREMIERES

 **7** NEW PLAY WORKSHOPS

126 ARTISTS & STAFF EMPLOYED

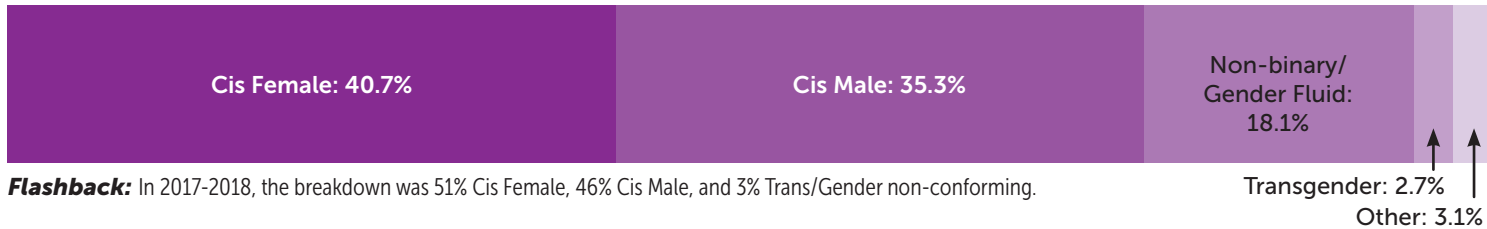


152 POSITIONS 

SEASON 28 AUDIENCE SNAPSHOT

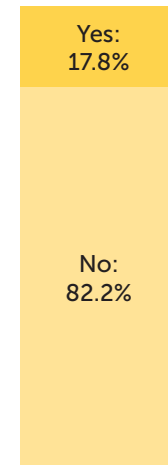
AFT sends post-show survey emails to all attendees, as well as providing a QR code link to the survey in our programs. The results here are based on audience surveys from *Mosque4Mosque* and *Gender Play* with 10.4% of attendees responding.

Gender Identity

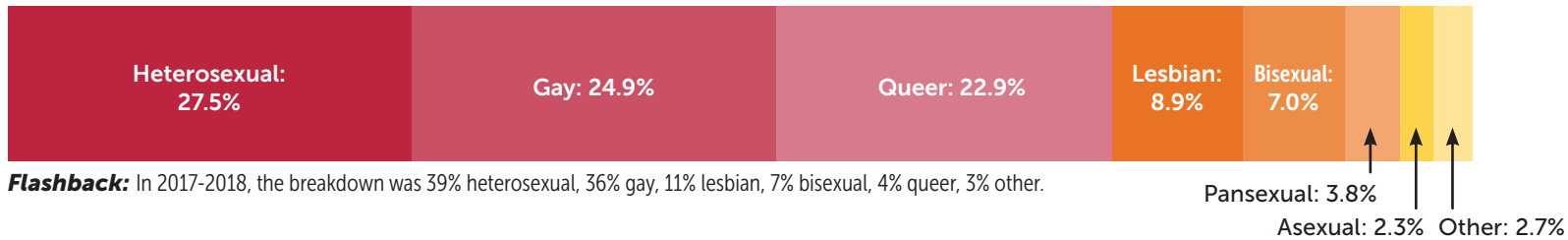


Flashback: In 2017-2018, the breakdown was 51% Cis Female, 46% Cis Male, and 3% Trans/Gender non-conforming.

Have a disability?



Sexuality



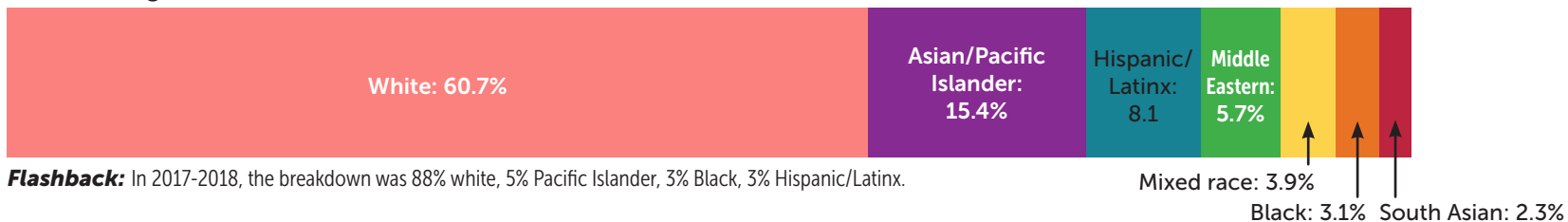
Flashback: In 2017-2018, the breakdown was 39% heterosexual, 36% gay, 11% lesbian, 7% bisexual, 4% queer, 3% other.

Age



Flashback: In 2017-2018, the breakdown was 8% 18-24, 21% 25-34, 15% 35-44, 18% 45-54, 18% 55-64, and 18% 65 and older.

Ethnic Background



Flashback: In 2017-2018, the breakdown was 88% white, 5% Pacific Islander, 3% Black, 3% Hispanic/Latinx.

WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE:

CLEARING SPACE

Written and performed by SHANTA NURULLAH, ZAHRA BAKER, and VIC WYNTER

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022as part of Chicago LIVE
at Lake Stage in Polk Bros. Park on Navy Pier

Chicago Live! is a week-long performing arts festival produced by Navy Pier that celebrates Chicago's incredible performing arts community. Established in 2021 to welcome audiences back to live theater and performing arts after the pandemic shut-down, this one-of-a kind celebration provides free access to audiences to see an array of Chicago's best and brightest artists and companies across many genres including theatre, music, dance, spoken word, comedy, and more, and cultivates connectivity for the arts and culture communities of Chicago.

About Face Theatre was invited to perform at Chicago Live! for the second year in a row. Shanta Nurullah and Zahra Baker returned following their hit performance of *OM Mission* in 2021 to create this original musical spoken word tribute to Black lesbians alongside theatre artist Vic Wynter.

500ATTENDEES
(ESTIMATED)

mission impact

Black lesbians and transgender people have been vitally important to queer history, but are too often left out of the stories we tell and have not received adequate attention in the telling of LGBTQ history. Investing in Black queer artists and art is a vital part of About Face's mission of advancing LGBTQ equity.

EDUCATION PROGRAM:

GREEN ROOM COLLECTIVE

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF LGBTQ+ ARTISTIC LEADERS



In a theatre, the “green room” is a location backstage where the artists prepare for performance. The green room is a space for camaraderie and community, vulnerability and questioning. It’s the place to experiment with big ideas and work out the details with others. The Green Room is often the last stop before you take the stage. The Green Room Collective program embraces these aspects to create a supportive platform to springboard young leaders in the LGBTQ+ community toward the advancement of their goals.



In About Face Theatre’s Green Room Collective program, participants advance through a series of individualized skill building activities, engage in meaningful tasks that directly support AFT operations, and take actions toward their education and/or career goals. In this role, GRC members work on two main project areas that will be developed together with AFT staff and artists.

2022-2023 Green Room Collective participants Theo Wampusyzc and Pen Wilder



The Green Room collective sets out to do two key things: educate and guide young LGBTQIA+ artists in their unique areas of interest, and provide spaces to apply that newfound knowledge practically. It’s an opportunity of exploration for young adults at the start of their theatre career to see where there might be a place for them to thrive.

The one thing the GRC is, above anything else, is a team. Being able to jump right in and be on professional projects and act as resources for the theatre together while still being able to work on our own personal development and goals gives a real sense of accomplishment. I got to keep my independence while discovering how invaluable outreach and teamwork is through our work here. We are a small but mighty team of two.

This year we took on a variety of roles, from designing workshops to speaking at events, acting as support staff, and proudly representing our LGBTQIA+ community. None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support and encouragement we’ve received from both the theatre and beyond.

I feel incredibly fortunate that there exists an opportunity for young leaders with marginalized identities in the industry to grow, and the both of us are so thankful that About Face is a stop along our individual journeys.

Pen Wilder
Green Room Collective Member



WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION:

MOSQUE4MOSQUE

Written by OMER ABBAS SALEM \ Directed by SOPHIYAA NAYAR
 Featuring OMER ABBAS SALEM, RULA GARDENIER, GLORIA IMSEIH PETRELLI,
 JORDAN DELL HARRIS, and ROM BARKHORDAR
 Produced in partnership with SILK ROAD RIING

NOVEMBER 17 – DECEMBER 17, 2022

at The Den Theatre, 1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago

Ibrahim is an average 30-something queer Arab-American Muslim who is constantly being reminded how unmarried he is by his relentlessly caring immigrant mother, Sara. Having helped raise his smart, popular, cheerleading hijabi younger sister, Ibrahim has always been comfortable sinking into the background. Normal job, quiet life, easy men. But on the precipice of finding what could be his first real relationship, Sara feels compelled to take Ibrahim's future into her own hands by attempting to find the perfect man for him to marry. *Mosque4Mosque* is a comedy about a normal Muslim American family that asks us to wrestle with what we believe normal to be.

24

PERFORMANCES

1,382

ATTENDEES

mission impact

Queer middle eastern and muslim voices are often missing or ignored in domestic LGBTQ media. Presenting and helping to develop *Mosque4Mosque* not only helped amplify these voices, it also helped support and elevate the queer and/or middle eastern artists who brought the story to life.

MEDIA

Trailer & behind-the-scenes documentaries



Our producing partner Silk Road Rising hosted an online panel discussion on the topic of Muslimness, Queerness, and Joy. This conversation featured *Mosque4Mosque* playwright Omer Abbas Salem alongside prominent Muslim educators from around the country.



Production photos



REVIEWS

"This is a play about identity and belonging, highlighting universal struggles that everyone can relate to.... **In an era where Arabs and Muslims are either invisible or perceived as problems, *Mosque4Mosque* demands for us to be seen as whole.**"

–Chicago Reader

"It is Salem's witty writing style that shines throughout this production... Gardenier's heartwarming performance as Sara is an enjoyable representation of the hospitable, lovable, and sometimes quirky nature of Arab, Muslim, and immigrant mothers."

–Chicago Reader

"The play has sharp dialogue and plenty of situational humor... The play offers a picture of resilience, but not in a romanticized sense – it's honest about human flaws"

–Chicago Tribune



NEW PROGRAM:

RE/GENERATION STUDIO

Artistic Producer AJ SCHWARTZ

JANUARY 28 & FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 18, 2023
at The Den Theatre, 1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago

Re/Generation Studio is About Face Theatre's invitation to build the future of queer theatre together. This welcoming series of public workshops was shaped as a collective dreaming space for connecting with each other, learning about new plays, world-building, and exploring new production models. Each workshop was grounded by staged readings of sections of new plays designed to invite conversation, collaboration, and creation in a shared space. Facilitators offered key questions and considerations raised by the playwrights and directors and encourage participants to work together to brainstorm and develop creative solutions.

All workshops were free and open to the public.

190

6

WORKSHOPS

ATTENDEES

mission impact

About Face developed Re/Generation Studio as a vehicle for reconnecting, restoring, and recreating with audiences and artists after the pandemic. The overwhelming response from participants proved to us that these kinds of creative events are necessary to build and rebuild our communities.

MEDIA

Behind-the-scenes documentary



Workshop photos



WORKSHOPS

LOVE & NAPPINESS

by Kirsten Baity, directed by Dionne Addai
Featuring Ua Smith, Sharon Pasia, and Justin McPike
Saturday, Jan 28, 2023 @ AFT Rehearsal Studio

LAVENDER MEN

by Roger Q. Mason, directed by Lucky Stiff
Featuring Matt Bowdren, Roger Q. Mason, Eli Sulkowski,
and John Payne
Saturday, Feb 18, 2023 @ The Den Theatre

THE MODEL CONGRESSMAN

by Steven Strafford, directed by AJ Schwartz
Featuring Ashli Funches, Marsha Harman, Kaleb Jackson, Sharon Pasia,
Bennett Petersen, Ben Sprunger, and Gardy Gilbert
Saturday, Feb 25, 2023 @ The Den Theatre

UNDERDROWN

by Derek Lee McPhatter, directed by Mikael Burke
Featuring Johnard Washington, Elaine Bell, Collin Quinn Rice,
Harmony Zhang, and Kaela West
Saturday, March 4, 2023 @ The Den Theatre

THE WHOLEHEARTED

co-created by Deborah Stein & Suli Holum, directed by Keira Fromm
Featuring Elizabeth Ledo, Aila Ayilam Peck, and Catherine Miller
Saturday, March 11, 2023 @ The Den Theatre

SWITCH HITTA

by Pen Wilder, directed by Megan Carney
assistant directed by Clara Radcliffe and Sonja Pardee
Featuring Bee Everidge, Emma Soden, Sharon Pasia, Sania Faith,
Josh Odor, and Anna DeShawn
Saturday, March 18, 2023 @ The Den Theatre



WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION:

GENDER PLAY OR WHAT YOU WILL

Co-created by WILL WILHELM and ERIN MURRAY

Directed by ERIN MURRAY \ Featuring WILL WILHELM

MAY 3 – JUNE 4, 2023

at The Den Theatre, 1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago

Will is a trans actor seeking to belong and feeling frustrated at not seeing their story reflected onstage. In their most desperate hour, they reach out for help. They hold a seance and summon the oldest and queerest playwright they can think of: William Shakespeare! Soon, the two become total besties, and together Will & Will reclaim the Bard's old plays in all their original homoerotic, cross-dressing, gender-fluid glory. Now, Will invites you to an impromptu party to celebrate their new friendship. But to meet the guest of honor, we must perform the seance again, together. *Gender Play, or what you Will* promises a mystical evening of queer joy, laughter, tarot, and more than a little self-discovery.

1,109**24**

PERFORMANCES

ATTENDEES

3JEFF AWARD
NOMINATIONS**mission impact**

During this time when transgender people are under vicious political attack, showcasing stories of trans people now and throughout history is vitally important. This production offered a welcoming and affirming space for trans and queer people to feel seen, supported, and loved.

MEDIA

Trailer & behind-the-scenes documentary



Production photos



REVIEWS

"Delightfully, unapologetically queer..."

Whether you're a Shakespeare devotee like me or would normally pass on his work, do yourself a favor and come see this show. It's something truly special."

–*Splash Magazine*

"A glimmering tour de force through some of Shakespeare's most compelling characters and real-life lovers... *Gender Play, or what you Will* is an exuberant celebration of the potential of storytelling, filled with decadent costume reveals, surprise dance parties, a robust mastery of Shakespeare's work, and the talent that is Will Wilhelm."

–*Rescripted*

"This incredibly original theatrical production isn't exactly a play. It's more like a Happening or an Event... filled with fun, festivities and flights of fantasy." RECOMMENDED

–*Chicago Theatre Review*

"A tour de force and a must-see! ...a forceful and captivating performance" FIVE STARS

–*Around The Town*

JOSEPH JEFFERSON AWARD NOMINATIONS

NEW WORK (Will Wilhelm and Erin Murray)

SOLO PERFORMANCE (Will Wilhelm)

LIGHTING DESIGN (Gabrielle Strong)

COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAM:

LEPPEN LEADERSHIP AWARDS

About Face Theatre has been honoring community luminaries since 2001 with the Leppen Leadership Award, named for founding supporter and consultant Michael Leppen. Recipients of the Leppen Leadership Award are people and organizations that lead with creativity and purpose to advance LGBTQ+ equity. They each demonstrate their leadership in different ways, but they all embody the values of About Face Theatre: Collaboration, Care, Equity, Courage, Sustainability, and Joy.

Traditionally, About Face has given out two Leppen Leadership Awards annually at its gala events. With such events not possible during the pandemic, About Face honored eight awardees this year. This year's recipients were recognized for breakthroughs in inclusive education initiatives, for innovative artmaking, for the ways they consistently give back, and for providing essential spaces for LGBTQ+ people to gather and organize.



RECIPIENTS



ART JOHNSTON and **PEPE PEÑA**, activists and owners of Sidetrack Bar



GLORIA ALLEN
(in memoriam),
transgender activist



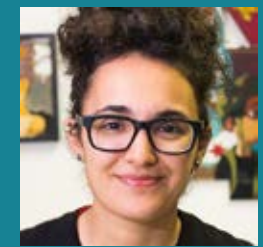
VICTOR SALVO
activist and co-founder
of The Legacy Project



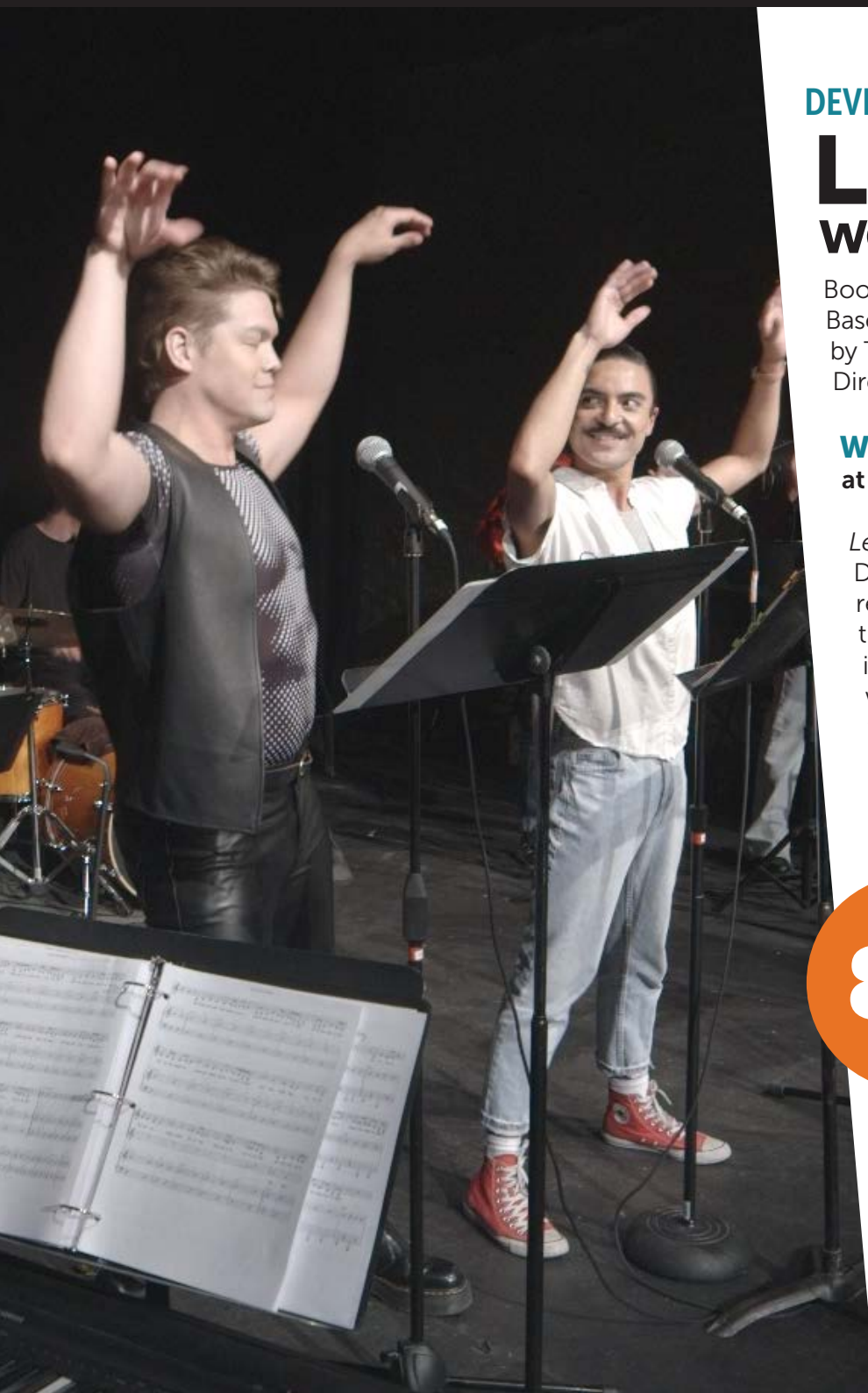
ANGELA BARNES and **RENAUDA RIDDLE**, owners of Nobody's Darling cocktail bar



WILLA TAYLOR, theatre
educator and storyteller



SAM KIRK
multi-disciplinary artist



DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP:

LEATHER DADDIES WORKSHOP & CONCERT READING

Book & Lyrics by SCOTT BRADLEY \ Music & Lyrics by MERCY BELL
Based on the book *Leatherman: The Legend of Chuck Renslow*
by TRACY BAIM & OWEN KEEHNEN
Directed by JESS MCLEOD \ Music Direction by KORY DANIELSON

WORKSHOP: JUNE 12–18, 2023 \ CONCERT: JUNE 18, 2023
at The Den Theatre, 1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago

Leather Daddies recounts the adventures of artist-entrepreneur-outlaws Domingo Orejudos and Chuck Renslow as they lead a pack of leather-clad rebels, pushing the boundaries of art, activism, and sexual exploration at a time of crushing conformity and persecution. They dreamt of a world where interracial same-sex love could be expressed without shame or hiding. That world didn't exist, so they turned their dream into an underground empire that would grow into a global community.

This workshop was supported by grants from Arts Midwest and the National Endowment for the Arts.

85

ATTENDEES

mission impact

Developing new works by LGBTQ artists is central to AFT's mission, as well as preserving and highlighting under-explored parts of queer history. AFT first supported the development of *Leather Daddies* as a fiscal sponsor of the project, which included the first public performance of materials in March 2022 at Chicago's Leather Archives & Museum.



PROGRAM:

TOURING WORKSHOPS

The youth education and outreach program is so deeply intertwined with AFT's history, mission, and culture—now more than ever with one of the youth theatre's founding directors sitting in the artistic director seat. So when a shifting scholastic landscape and a global pandemic called for us to put our touring program on hold, we had to re-strategize how to reach and collaborate with Chicago's youngest queers and allies. This year, that manifested as two major outreach events:

HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL'S FOCUS ON THE ARTS FESTIVAL

Focus on the Arts is organized as a festival with several workshops or performances going on simultaneously. AFT brought a sampling of our upcoming production *Gender Play, or what you Will* with performer Will Wilhelm, and GRC's Pen Wilder and I facilitating discussion afterward. The students get to choose which programs they want to attend, which meant that everybody in the black box theatre had actively chosen to be there for our *Gender Play* program, and it showed. There was no shortage of engagement and challenging discussion when we book-ended Will's segment of the play with a discussion on Shakespeare and his works and some candid personal stories on existing in theatre spaces and training programs as trans artists. Pen and I were approached after the program by a few students who told us how impactful it was to see themselves as trans and nonbinary artists acknowledged on stage. We even swapped nascent play scripts and saw them at a full performance of *Gender Play* several weeks later!

BETH-EMET SYNAGOGUE'S SACRED CHOICES RETREAT

Sacred Choices is a Jewish sex ed and wellness retreat for middle school-aged kids. When their youth group leader asked students what sort of questions they were wrestling, they came up with the theme of personal boundaries: how to maintain them, how to recognize them, and how to move forward when we realize we ourselves have crossed a boundary. In tailoring our workshop to the needs of the students, we decided to use theatre as a tool for opening up conversation. We asked "how can we as theatre professionals have this conversation with these kids in a way that other emotionally intelligent adults cannot?" We used scene work and improv to practice what a violation of personal boundaries might look like from the outside or feel like from the inside in a safe, pretend environment so that we could talk through possible courses of action we can take when we encounter those situations in our real lives. I think we did something for those kids that only teaching artists could do.

With these workshops under our belt, we have a strong foundation on which to build the next chapter of AFT's youth programming.

Theo Wampuszyc
Green Room Collective member

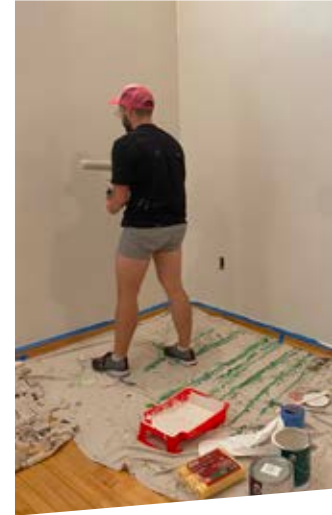
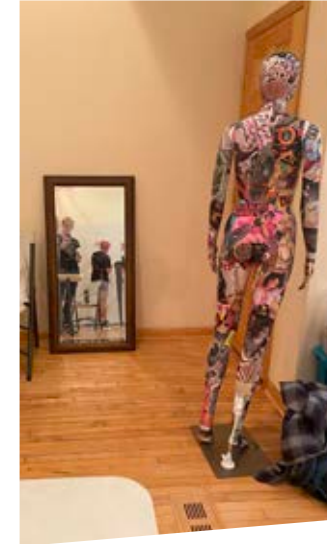
2022-2023 AFT'S NEW HOME

A NEW SPACE FOR NEW WORK

This season, About Face Theatre undertook a search for a new office and rehearsal space. Back in 2014, we had taken over the second floor of the building 5252 N. Broadway. This was a major move at the time, representing a huge investment in the future of LGBTQ+ theatre by our friends and loyal supporters. Over almost a decade, AFT hosted countless meetings, play readings, About Face Youth Theatre workshops, and rehearsals for brand news plays at the Broadway location.

But as we entered our 28th season, we were in the process of re-thinking what our programming looks like post-pandemic and how it can be adaptable and relevant to the needs of our community. It made sense then to also consider the type of location we need to do this necessary work. What is the right amount of space that we need? What kind of facility can help us continue to foster the rich interplay of ideas between artists, staff, and community? These questions led us to our new home at 1922 W. Irving Park in Chicago's North Center neighborhood. It is an adaptable space that can be used for office work as well as rehearsals and special events or play readings.

Above: Painting and moving in. Bottom row: AFT's new office space lobby and work/rehearsal room.





AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Turns out, when you occupy a space for 10 years, you really do find a way to completely fill the space you've been given. When it came time for About Face to move our offices, the task was less about getting the stuff we were keeping to our new space, and more about *getting rid of* the stuff we simply didn't have room for anymore. It was daunting to walk around a location that served us well for so many years and see things that were useful at one point, but that we just didn't have a need for anymore.

The easiest way to get rid of things these days? Post it for free on a Queer Buy-Nothing Facebook group! Be warned though that the queer community *will*, in fact, show up en masse. We posted about our "Free Shitpalooza" event on a Wednesday afternoon, and by that evening we were swimming in hundreds of messages. And on Thursday, we opened the doors to a line of people around the block looking to come take things off of our hands. Everyone from small theatre companies, drag performers, and the DIY-type showed up. In three days, we were able to clear out our paint and hardware leftovers, four racks of costume pieces, old props storage, unused kitchen gadgets, office furniture, odds and ends we've collected over the years, and even a piano. Have you ever seen someone move a piano down a flight of stairs? Because it's highly impressive.

Moving actually gave us the opportunity to benefit our community and, in the process, to meet so many new people. One person who

came by was opening a music studio, another was putting together a drag cabaret look. There were high school teachers and even someone who was getting ready to completely deck out their home for a haunted house. We got to chat with people we've worked with in the past and in recent seasons, as well as so many people in the LGBTQ+ community that aren't in the theatre scene. While an open door, first-come-first-served, take-anything-that-isn't-nailed-down policy could have been an unmitigated disaster, it ended up being a really beautiful chance to give back while also meeting a lot of people that had never heard of About Face.

But of course, we still had to get all the things we were keeping to our new home—and get a fresh coat of paint on the new walls! None of that would have been possible without our friends in the theatre community. We had overhire hands come in and help us move furniture, AFT staff hauling car loads of boxes and equipment, as well as so much sorting and organizing. We're not completely done yet—it takes awhile to settle in—but the process itself has helped us connect and reconnect with the community we serve.

Audrey Kleine
Operations & Production Manager

IN-KIND DONATIONS

As part of the process of packing up and moving About Face Theatre's office and rehearsal space, the staff donated to over a dozen local non-profit organizations and mutual aid groups, as well as over 100 individual members of the Chicago LGBTQIA+ community, including drag performers, event planners, theatre professionals, educators, teaching artists, and queer youths.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



over 100 pounds of craft supplies, including several dozen yards of fabric, plastic florals, acrylic paint, chalkboard paint, wood glue, modge podge, and more



Seasonal winter clothes, walking shoes



theatre hardware



like-new professional workplace clothes and shoes for women and femme identified people



home goods, craft supplies, clothing, shoes, jewelry, furniture



costume pieces, "washboard tie"



MUTUAL AID GROUPS

Rogers Park Buy Nothing page

Chicago Queer Buy Nothing

Chicago Queer Exchange

Green Theatre Alliance
(old set pieces and furniture)

Loyola Park toy library network
(3 boxes of sidewalk chalk & tennis balls)

Little Free Library network
(over 200 gently loved books and plays)

Uncharted Books pin trading board
(commemorative 20th anniversary pins)

Clark and Morse love fridge
(dry goods and spices)

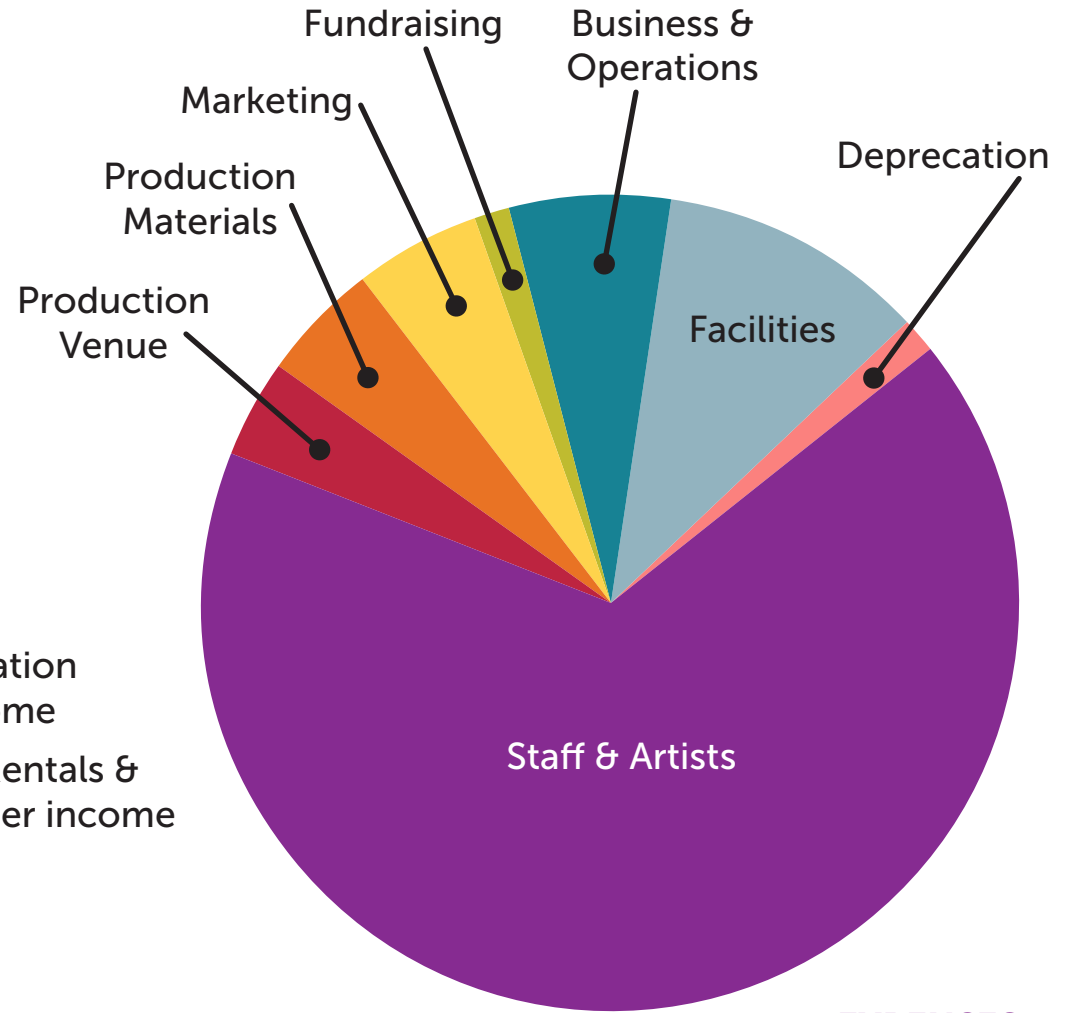
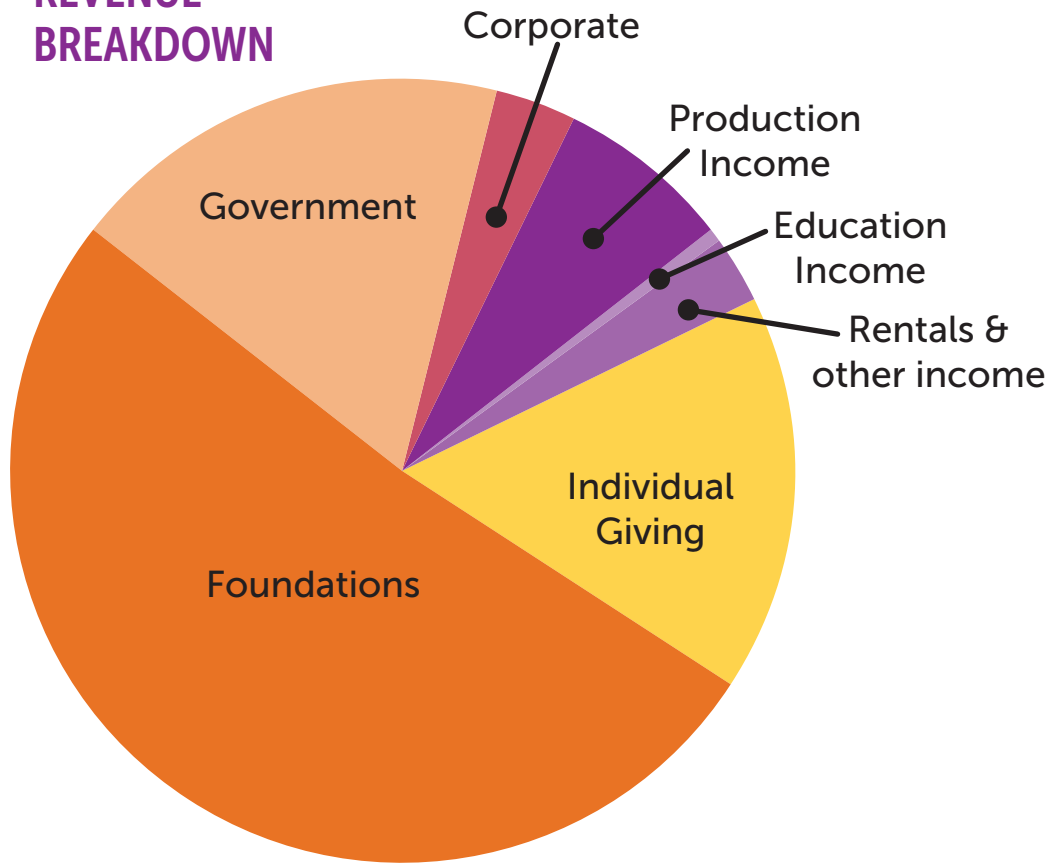
The Radical Fae clothing exchange
(clothes, shoes, and bags)



2022-2023 FINANCES

2022-2023 FINANCIALS

REVENUE BREAKDOWN



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	FY2023
Cash	\$223,219
Accounts Receivable	\$141,461
Prepaid Expenses	\$11,157
Security Deposits	\$9,992
Fixed Assets	\$0
Total Assets	\$385,829
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$73
Loans Payable	\$0
Security Deposits Payable	\$0
Accrued Expenses	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$73
EQUITY	
Opening Balance	\$30
Retained Earnings	\$476,916
Net Revenue	-\$91,190
Total Equity	\$385,756
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$385,829

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

EARNED REVENUE	FY2023
Production Income	\$40,218
Education Income	\$3,600
Rentals & Other Income	\$15,419
Total Earned Revenue	\$59,237
CONTRIBUTED REVENUE	
Individuals (Board)	\$7,150
Individuals (Non-Board)	\$86,243
Special Events	\$0
Foundation	\$296,500
Government	\$103,900
Corporate	\$20,644
Total Contributed Revenue	\$514,437
In-kind Revenue	\$3,667
Total Revenue	\$577,341
EXPENSES	
Staff Personnel	\$315,199
Production Personnel	\$131,641
Production Venue	\$25,650
Production Materials	\$30,994
Marketing	\$33,953
Fundraising	\$9,949
Business & Operations	\$41,841
Facilities	\$70,450
Depreciation	\$8,854
Total Expenses	\$668,531
Total Net Revenue	-\$91,190

*Pre-audit financials for Fiscal Year ending August 31, 2023

DONORS

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

Reflects donations made between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023.

Actors' Equity Foundation Inc	Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation	Netrality Parent, LLC
Alphawood Foundation	HCA Healthcare	Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Amazon Smile	The House Theatre of Chicago	Polk Bros. Foundation
Arts Work Fund	iGive	Reva and David Logan Foundation
Bailey Charitable Trust	Illinois Arts Council Agency	Roots Corporation
Chicago Community Trust - LGBTQ+ Fund	John R. Halligan Charitable Fund	The Saints
City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs	Jonny Stax Presents, Inc.	The Shubert Foundation
and Special Events (DCASE)	JP Morgan Chase	TisBest Philanthropy
The Cohen Family Charitable Gift Fund	Katherine Soodek Foundation	Venable Foundation
Crossroads Fund	LOVELOUD Foundation	Worthwhile Events NFP
Danaher	Marty's Martini Bar	
Gartner, Inc.	Miriam U. and H. Earl Hoover Foundation	
	Molson Coors	

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Reflects donations made between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023.

SUSTAINERS CIRCLE

About Face Theatre would like to thank the Sustainers Circle, a community of donors who pledge a recurring monthly or quarterly donation in support of the Theatre and its mission to advance the national dialogue on sexual and gender identity.

Jim Andrews	Pat Ewert & Susan Blake	Geoff Robinson	Bernadette Smith & Heather Vickery
Dave Bentlin	Howard Heyman & Bill Chamberlain	Lauren Sack	Steve Trubac
Judge Tom Chiola	Bill Michel & Mark Botelho	RJ Silva	Joshua Turnbull
Alan Eddington		Lauren Sivak & Erin Barlow	Moises Villada
Xavier Esters			

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

With a generous annual contribution or monthly gift totaling \$1,000 or more in a year, Founders Society members support today's LGBTQ+ artists creating About Face Theatre's performances and touring shows, as well as our youth ensemble and education initiatives.

\$10,000+

Richard Schieler Estate

\$5,000-\$9,999

Brent Warburton

\$1,000-\$4,999

Daniel Desy
 Eileen Dordek & Chris Landgraff
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 Prof. James A. Glazier
 Michael Heyman
 Becky Huinker
 Amy Hutchison
 E. Patrick Johnson
 John Paul Massi
 Julia Fabris McBride & William McBride
 Bill Michel & Mark Botelho
 Charles Rhee
 John Sanders & Jason Held
 Edmund Talideh
 Ray Wagner
 Linsea Waugh
 Brian Woodworth & Brian Phillips

\$500-\$999

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Sofia Anastopoulos
Cheryl Lynn Bruce &
Kerry James Marshall
Forrest Burroughs
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Niall and Katie Hardiman
Howard Heyman &
Bill Chamberlain
John Kander
Michael Leppen
Cody Miller
Mary Morten & Willa Taylor
Sharon Mylrea
Clark Pellett & Robert Kohl
Geoff Robinson
Roche Schulfert &
Mary Beth Fisher
Bernadette Smith &
Heather Vickery
Nicolas Stolfa

\$100-\$499

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Logan Soble
Fred Steger
Rachel Tigner
Martin Till
Steve Trubac
Joshua Turnbull
Moises Villada
Joan K. Wells
James Wiltshire
Paul Winberg & Bruce Czuchna
Spencer Wood

\$1-\$99

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Zinnabar Arthem
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Timothy Geier
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Glynnis Hokenson
William Hooper
Sophia Hubeny
Damaris Jenkins
Joanna Kwasigroch
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Charles Leuver
Scott Martin
Daniel Mason
Ronald McClure
Sarah McDaniel &
Sharvari Sastry
Melissa McNeill
Nick San Miguel
Jeremy Miller
Paul Miller
Jared Miller
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Wendy Watson
Briana Wilson
Stanley Wood

THANK YOU!

Your ongoing support makes
our critical work possible.



ABOUT
FACE
THEATRE

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