



Summer Festival

Performer Handbook

2017

Thrilling audiences and creating community through high-quality classical theatre

Introduction

DSF "keeps us engaged with the greatest literary inheritance in the English language by engaging us more deeply with each other."

Delaware Today

Founded in 2003, the Delaware Shakespeare Festival (DSF) strives to make classical theatre accessible to everyone. Our professional productions of Shakespeare's works and education and outreach programs are affordable and community-centered. In 2016, Delaware Shakespeare Festival served 5,600 people, including over 700 children, in the state of Delaware and the surrounding regions.

"A very good sign that Will is alive and will continue to prosper in Delaware."

The Community News

We employ talented actors and technicians and offer informative orientations and pre-show programming. For the Summer Festival, we keep ticket prices low (\$18 General Admission/\$16 Seniors/\$14 Students) and aim to create an incredible community event centered around these amazing plays.

"Summer's un-missable entertainment option."

Delaware Arts Info Blog

How one audience member puts it:

The Summer Festival is a "perfect summer evening tradition." There is something warm and wonderful about going to the park in the glow of a summer evening, hearing the locusts chirping, watching a great play in a peaceful setting, and leaving with your brain and soul refreshed. Makes me think of my favorite Shakespearean quotation: "How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank." Whether I attend alone or arrive with a group of friends, I feel like I am "among friends" in this setting; enjoying a picnic and the company of others who are there for the same reason that I am—to enjoy the theatre and the experience as a whole. It is a friendly, safe, welcoming environment, and one that makes my brain and spirit open and receptive to the play and the players.

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a Delaware where people from all walks of life celebrate and explore their shared humanity through the lens of Shakespearean works.

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by Shakespeare's creative vision and the broad societal mix of audiences of his era, Delaware Shakespeare Festival brings our community together for vibrant theatre and learning experiences.

CORE VALUES

- 1) We believe that quality, professional, live, raucous, classical theatre as Shakespeare intended can be affordable, accessible, and fun for all.
- 2) We believe in creating an informal, family-friendly, event-like atmosphere for our productions.
- 3) We believe in engaging audience members from all ages of life through Festival offerings and educational outreach.
- 4) As a dynamic, evolving arts organization, we believe in smart growth.
- 5) We believe in establishing a respectful, creatively exciting atmosphere that nurtures artists and artistic growth.

DSF Programs

In conjunction with our annual Summer Festival at Rockwood Park, DSF offers many educational and outreach programs that increase community engagement and strengthen audience response to the plays.

Shakespeare Orientation

Prior to the performance, two actors provide the background, historical and thematic explanation of the play, as well as a further understanding of the author, his time-period, and his use of language to the audience.

Family Nights

Children under 12 are admitted for free on Sunday nights and are invited to participate in activities specifically geared towards their understanding of the play.

College Apprenticeships

Apprentices act in the mainstage production, perform a pre-show comedy sketch, work behind the scenes, and help with audience services. Area professionals teach Master Classes exclusively for the apprentices. By the end of the summer, apprentices have learned skills in every theatre discipline and can earn college credit for their work. Some members of the professional company may be asked to serve as an Apprentice Mentor.

High School Interns

Interns understudy the college apprentices, serve as Wandering Bards entertaining audiences pre-show with sonnets and Shakespeare games, and volunteer as front of house staff.

NOTES ON APPRENTICES AND INTERNS: Shakespeare's audience was a "vertical" one – there were members of all different social classes. Shakespeare's company was also "vertical" – with seasoned professionals working next to young actors learning their trade. As a company that values bringing a broad mix of the community together to experience these plays, the presence of apprentices and interns brings a broad mix of the community into the rehearsal hall. At DSF, we value the perspective that apprentices and interns bring to the Summer Festival ensemble.

The Bridge

DSF scholars visit at-risk youth to discuss the world of Shakespeare and the themes of the play. Participants then attend the Summer Festival for free. Immediately following the performance, scholars and actors meet with participants to review the themes of the play and to help the participants find connections to their own lives.

Community Cornerstone

Each spring, Delaware DSF engages in community programming that fosters dialogue around key themes found in the Summer Festival production that connect to modern life. In advance of *Henry V*, DSF will explore King Henry as leader in workshops with organizations that serve three distinct kinds of "leaders in training"

- Strive Leadership – learning academy for high school athletes and coaches
- Sussex Tech High School ROTC program
- Wilmington University business leadership students

In 2016, DSF launched a new program to truly commit to its vision of Delaware where people from all walks of life engage with Shakespeare's plays. Each fall, the **Delaware Shakespeare Community Tour** takes a full Shakespeare production to locations like homeless shelters, detention facilities, and community centers.

******During the spring of 2017, Delaware Shakespeare Festival will be rebranding itself as Delaware Shakespeare. We aim to communicate to our audience that we have grown beyond our traditional Summer Festival and are now a company with year-round impact.******

Expectations

First Rehearsal

There will be a “Meet & Greet,” designer presentations, and a read-through of the script at the first rehearsal. DSF staff, board members, and key donors are invited to attend.

Designers are expected to bring renderings and samples of their work for this production.

Actors are expected to be as off-book as early as possible (for each scene, no later than the rehearsal following the initial blocking rehearsal). With a short rehearsal process, early memorization is vital to allow the company to quickly dive into the complexities of the text.

Script

DSF tries to keep performances at around the 2-hour mark. All parts, regardless of size, will be altered from the original text. If an actor feels strongly that his or her cut line belongs back in the final script, he or she must discuss with the director. The director may or may not allow for line additions. An actor must be willing to give up another line of equal length to have lines added back in, ie: a line for a line!

Rehearsals

Thank you in advance for your prompt arrival at all rehearsals. The rehearsal hall will always be open early for actor warm-ups.

Weeknight rehearsals will be held at the rehearsal hall. Weekend rehearsals will be at Rockwood Park (weather permitting, except for the weekend of the Ice Cream Festival).

Designers, staff, and board members are always welcome at the rehearsal hall to watch quietly.

Weekend rehearsals at Rockwood Park are open to the public. It is a public park and people will sometimes stop during a walk and see what we are up to. In 2013, DSF began informing our audience of our Rockwood Park rehearsals and inviting them to stop by if they were interested. Accessibility is a core value of DSF, and this step gives our audience greater access to our process.

Photography/Video Policy

As mentioned above, accessibility is a core value of DSF. While this does not translate to an open door policy at EVERY rehearsal, we do believe in giving our audience behind-the-scenes access. Photos are frequently taken at rehearsal and posted on our website, Facebook page, and in e-mail blasts. We also take short videos. You may be approached and asked to record a short audio segment of a monologue and your thoughts on the character. Advance notice will be given prior to photographs being taken. If you would like to avoid being photographed at a rehearsal, just let us know.

Designer Run

There will be a run-through for designers at some point during the rehearsal process. Stage Management will do their best to give as much notice as possible.

Vocal Prep

Rockwood Park is an expansive space that can seat up to 500 patrons. Though DSF has transitioned to a wireless microphone system that allows for more performer subtlety, we encourage you not to rely on the microphones to do all the work. Articulation, final consonants, and carrying the vocal energy through to the end of the line are key. A good vocal warm-up is very much your friend! If you desire, the vocal coach can provide actors with helpful warm-ups that will help with the task of making yourself clearly understood in an outdoor environment.

Direct Address

DSF is a firm believer in the power of “direct address” in Shakespeare. Soliloquies are easy passage to deliver directly to audience members. But DSF encourages you to look for other moments, even in the middle of scenes, where it makes sense to share a line or a portion of a line with an audience member.

As DSF performances begin in daylight, actors and audience members exist in the same world. Direct address honors this connection, heightens the sense of community, and frequently brings the text alive in exciting and new ways

Weather Policy

Weather in Northern Delaware is very peculiar in the summer. It could be pouring in Philadelphia and be bright sunny skies in Wilmington. Do not assume anything about the weather.

Our intention is to always be outside at Rockwood when it is safe to do so. For technical rehearsals, in the event of foul weather the schedule could change at a moment's notice so that we get the most time outside as possible. Please be flexible with your schedules for the entire week of tech.

Designers and staff should always expect to report to Rockwood. Unless otherwise notified, actors must report to rehearsals and performances. Actors will hear from Stage Management regarding rehearsals and performances.

During performances, DSF likes to say our rain policy mirrors that of professional baseball. DSF continues performing in a light rain. If the rain intensifies, a twenty-minute rain delay will be called. If it is still raining after twenty minutes, the performances will be stopped. Performances are stopped immediately if there is lightning within a eight-mile radius. We have also delayed performance start times because of heat.

Typically, three to four performances are impacted in some way by weather, whether cancellations before show, in process stops, or heat delays. But we have had years with no impact. All part of the joy of outdoor summer theatre!

Rain/Heat Date Policy

There is a Rain/Heat Date of Tuesday, July 25. Please keep your schedule open for those dates.

The Rain/Heat Date is only implemented if an entire performance is cancelled before it begins. Rain/Heat Date is not implemented if a performance is stopped in process.

Tech

DSF begins assembling the set and creating the performance/audience space on Wednesday, July 5. The aim is to have the set complete for a Saturday morning spacing rehearsal at Rockwood. During the remainder of the day Saturday and Sunday afternoon, weather permitting, designers, staff and the Apprentice Company will complete load-in in all of the equipment necessary to produce outdoor theatre (including lighting, sound, costumes and front-of-house). By the time actors arrive back at Rockwood on Sunday evening, all elements should at least be functional. Refinements continue through the rest of tech week.

Performances

Staff and the Apprentice Company will be called in the afternoon for daily set-up. Schedule permitting, apprentices will be given a dinner break between set-up and the performance.

Actors will be called at least 45 minutes before the performance during the run. The grounds of Rockwood open 1 ¼ hour ahead of the mainstage performance for picnicking and pre-show entertainment. Actors may be needed earlier for fight and choreography calls. Summer traffic from Philadelphia to Wilmington can sometimes be tough (particularly on Fridays), so please give enough travel time to ensure safe arrival.

There will be thirteen performances of the show, opening on a Friday, and closing on a Sunday. There will also be one "Preview" or "Open Dress" on the night before Opening. We encourage actors and designers to invite family and friends to this performance. The Preview/Open Dress is pay-what-you-can.

Shows are Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30pm and Sundays at 6pm. Sundays are Family Night performances and incorporate special events for children.

Post-Performance Greeting Line

It is a DSF tradition that members of the acting company greet departing audience members following each production. Our patrons value this one-on-one encounter, and actors have always enjoyed it as well. DSF requests that at least 4-5 actors a night join in this greeting line before changing out of costume. (Apprentices must, unfortunately, assist with post-performance strike each night.)

Comp Tickets

Each member of the company is eligible for two complimentary tickets. Please email David Stradley (david@delshakes.org) at least two days before the date you will be needing tickets.

Industry Tickets

\$10 industry tickets will be available at the box office on performance nights for theatre professionals.

Health

Though college apprentices will be covering a majority of the acting roles in the show, we encourage everyone to monitor both their health and physical activity during their 7 weeks with DSF. We have understudies, but we would prefer not to have to use them.

Attitude

DSF is a professional company that aims to foster a fun environment where an artist can feel free and safe to play without judgment.

If for any reason, you ever feel unsafe or unhappy, actors should please see the cast rep immediately. The rep will be voted on at the first rehearsal. All others should please report to the Producing Artistic Director or the Associate Producer, depending on the situation.

Local Information

Weeknight rehearsals will be held in Wilmington, at OperaDelaware Studios (4 S. Poplar Street, Wilmington, DE, 19801).

Weekend rehearsals and all performances will be at Rockwood Park, Washington St. Ext. & Shipley Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809. For internet mapping purposes, please use 4651 Washington St. Ext. as the street address.

OperaDelaware Area

Breakfast/Coffee

[LOMA Coffee](#) is locally owned and operated coffee shop that has ample room for seating and a decent selection for breakfast food. It's the closest coffee shop to the OD studios, on the corner of Third and Market.

Further down Market Street, there's a Starbucks that should be opening within the next couple of weeks, and a [BrewHaHa](#), which is a Delaware chain – also good coffee, with more options for food at both breakfast and lunch. But that's between 8th and 9th on Market – a significant hike. There's also a Starbucks on the Riverfront.

Lunch

It's a great walk along the riverfront to the [Riverfront Market](#). (Go out of the OD studios, walk past and then around the building on the left, and you'll be at the start of the

Wilmington Riverwalk. Go under the overpass, and it opens to a park and the path leads you directly to the market.) Inside, there's a number of restaurant stalls selling sandwiches, pizza, sushi, Thai food, taco/burritos, cheesesteaks and fresh salads. They're all solid, and a great place for groups. (Closed on Sundays.)

Other quick lunches: The last time OperaDelaware had a cast in town, there was much love for D&H Jamaican Food at 10 E. 4th Street. The place is not much to look at and probably better for takeout, but food is solid and it's very close by. [Zaikka](#) at 209 N. Market Street is like Chipotle for Indian food – you get the idea. If there are any vegan/vegetarians among you, I'd recommend [Masala Kitchen](#) at 825 N. Market St. and [Drop Squad Kitchen](#) at 928 Justison St. on the Riverfront (walkable, but a serious hike), located inside Molly's Ice Cream.

Longer meals / drinks

[Cocina Lolo](#) is a great upscale, modern-Mex restaurant with seriously good happy hour deals. [Merchant Bar](#) has excellent (and pricey) cocktails and great bar food, and across the street, [La Fia](#) is one of the best restaurants in Delaware. (All three have the same owner, and all are great.) On the Riverfront, [Iron Hill Brewery](#) is a Delaware staple and has a nice outdoor seating area. The Riverfront's outdoor beer garden, [Constitution Yards](#), is open now. Craft beer lovers will find much to love at [Chelsea Tavern](#) on Market Street. [Harry's Seafood](#), also walkable from OperaDelaware and in the same building as the Riverfront Market, is a great (albeit pricey) seafood restaurant with great happy hour specials, a lower-priced bar menu, and half-price oysters on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Rockwood Area

Lunch and pre-show

Near the park:

Bellefonte Café: Cool, casual spot in an artsy neighborhood of Wilmington. Wraps, sandwiches, salads burritos. Not known for quick service. Good options for vegan and vegetarians. 804 Brandywine Blvd, 19809. <http://bellefontecafe.letseat.at>

Wawa: Gotta have it! 705 Philadelphia Pike, 19809.

About a mile north of I-95 on Marsh Road:

Capriotti's Sub Shop: Delaware's most beloved sub shop, known for The Bobbie (fresh roasted turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce on a roll). The Cole Turkey (turkey, cole slaw, Russian dressing) is pretty good too. A large might feed three people. 2124 Silverside Rd, 19803. <http://capriottis.com/wilmington-de-silverside-road.php>

El Diablo Burritos: Really spectacular gourmet burritos. Think citrus-braised pork with pineapple jalapeno salsa. Or short rib and goat cheese. A single burrito could handle two

light appetites, especially if you get queso and chips. (Facebook has another location; for GPS, this one is at 1812 Marsh Road, Wilmington.)

Also up there: Subway (bleh), Einstein Bagels (bleh), and BrewHaHa (local coffee chain, pretty good).

Just off I-95 n the way into Delaware

Claymont Steak Shop: Best cheesesteaks in Delaware. 3526 Philadelphia Pike, 19703. <http://www.claymontsteakshop.com>

After the show (places serving food past 10pm)

About a mile north of I-95 on Marsh Road:

Ulysses Gastropub: Open until 1am (last call in Delaware) every night. Good late-night menu, great craft beer selection. And they buy an ad in the program. 1716 Marsh Rd, 19810. <http://ulyssesgastropub.com>

Goat Kitchen & Bar: Just opened, good for cocktails and has reasonably priced bar snacks. 1845 Marsh Rd, 19810. <http://www.goatkitchenandbar.com>

A little further away, but in the right direction:

Two Stones Pub: Local temple of craft beer, with good bar menu. 2502 Foulk Rd, 19810. <http://www.twostonespub.com/wilm.php>