



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends

What a delight it has been to celebrate 25 years of Off Square Theatre Company! We share this celebration with all the artists, students, audience members, and supporters who have been part of our story thus far. We couldn't do this vital work without your support.

Earlier this year we completed our strategic plan. Through formal interviews, casual conversations, and a retrospective look at our programs and seasons, a consistent theme presented itself: Off Square Theatre's work has always been, and will always be, a powerful tool for meaningful connection. Live theatre has never been more important than it is today—when we're each more accessible than ever before, but also more isolated. And in our increasingly digitized world, our youth are experiencing this even more acutely. We're hungry for authentic experiences.

We know that creative expression and entertainment opens our hearts and minds, creating space for vulnerability, discovery, and shared problem-solving. Theatre arts education empowers youth to develop the skills needed to succeed in our rapidly changing world. **Live theatre brings people together** – first into one room, then into an emotionally-rich shared experience, and finally into a more resilient, connected community.

Thank you for being part of our past success and for shaping our future. We are delighted to share our new mission and vision with you. As we embrace our values of artistic excellence, empathy and inclusion, and a focus on the future, the next act of our story will be staged together as we set to work bridging divides, sparking dialogue, and empowering the next generation of creative leaders through transformative experiences with live theatre.

We look forward to an exciting season in 2024 and are so grateful for all you do to make it a success.

In gratitude,



Natalia Duncan Macker
Producing Artistic Director



Ruth Ann Petroff
President

Our Vision

Theatre as a catalyst
for connection

Our Mission

To create high-quality live
theatre experiences that
bridge divides

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Natalia Duncan Macker
Producing Artistic Director

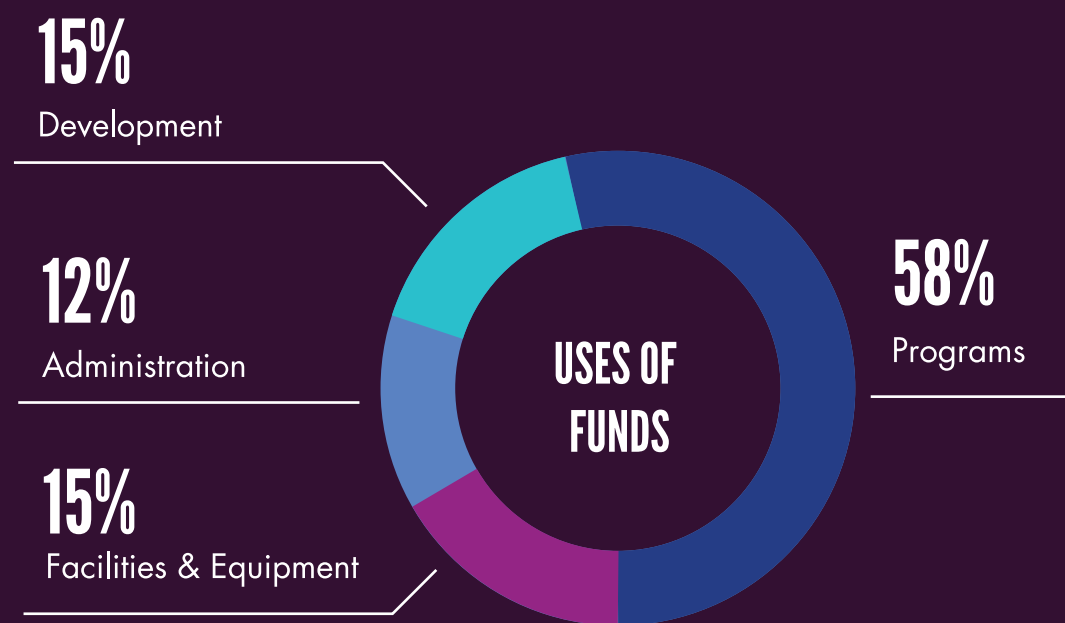
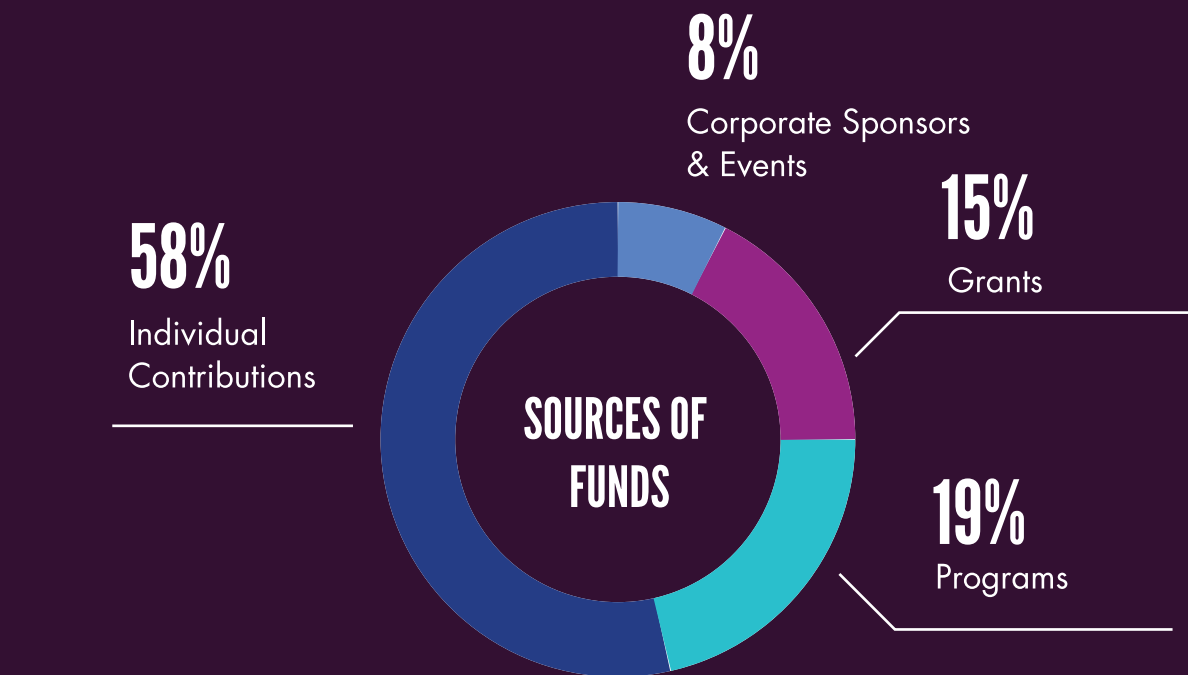
Sadie Frank
Education Director
Development Manager

Nanci Turner Steveson
Engagement Director
Company Manager

Elizabeth Taylor
Operations & Technical Director



Where your support goes



2023

25th Anniversary of Off Square Theatre

4,995

Audience Members

11

Local Organizational Partners



\$8,513

In Scholarships

65

Artists Engaged

376

Hours of Theatre arts education

100%

Students increasing confidence, connection and/or skills

913

School Students Saw The Sound of Music

\$40,000

In-Kind Housing for Guest Artists

Our Scholarships

Due to the generosity of our donors and the Madame X Society, Off Square Theatre offers scholarships to all programs, ensuring no student is ever turned away due to inability to pay. Off Square Theatre also collaborates with One22 for scholarships.

Our Programs



ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Productions

Off Square Theatre is committed to fostering vibrant artistry, enhancing our craft, and supporting risk-taking while compensating artists for their contributions. We collaborate with local, regional, and national artists to deliver professional productions that delight, challenge, and inspire audiences of all ages.

CREATIVE LEADERS

Youth Education

Theatre develops human beings. We use theatre to increase leadership, resiliency, connection, and self-confidence in our youth as they use theatre to collaborate, practice problem-solving, activate their imagination and take risks together.

BRIDGING DIVIDES

Outreach

Theatre brings diverse people together and builds community through a shared experience. We're dedicated to expanding our reach to increase connection and build new audiences. We're taking the theater into the community, bringing diverse voices to the table, and partnering to use theatre as a tool for community-building.

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

What the Constitution Means to Me

Each season Off Square Theatre produces contemporary theatre, often with hosted talkbacks, to spark community conversations. In May 2023, Off Square Theatre produced the award-winning, boundary-breaking play *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Schreck. Directed by Allison Watrous, this production connected with audiences across generations, breathing new life into the Constitution and imagining how it will shape the next generation.

“This production blew me away! It opened up space for understanding, empathy, and discussion. It really impacted my thinking and moved me. I don't think I will ever forget it.”



Read more about the play, check out the discussion guide, and see pictures from the production.



Artist Spotlight



Jessica Robblee

Making her Off Square debut in the role of Heidi, Jessica is an actor-writer-director-producer-educator based in Colorado. She's proud to have acted with Buntport Theater, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the Arvada Center Black Box Repertory Company, UpstART Theatre, Theatre Aspen, Miner's Alley Playhouse, the Butterfly Effect Theatre Company, Curious Theatre, SisTryst Productions, Square Product Theatre, Wonderbound, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. She holds a BA in Theatre and English from Davidson College, an MA in Theatre Education from the University of Northern Colorado, and her work has been honored by True West Awards, the Henry Awards Committee, Westword, The Denver Post.



Jheili Montiel Huerta

Jheili was raised in Jackson and appeared in *What The Constitution Means to Me* as a senior in high school in the role of the debate student. She participated in Speech and Debate for her entire high school career and was a top debater in the state as well as a National qualifier three years in a row. She is currently a freshman at Tufts University and plans to major in English.

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Thin Air Shakespeare: Richard III

Thin Air Shakespeare returned to the Center Amphitheater in 2023 with one of Shakespeare’s most notorious villains – Richard III – directed by Edgar Landa. This production tackled this complex story with a fast-paced, original adaptation that included original scoring by Melissa Elliott, swordplay, ghostly projections, and more. Thin Air Shakespeare is made possible in part through a collaboration with OST’s Producing Partner, the Center for the Arts.

“The fact that we have access to this quality of theatre production in Jackson is amazing.”

“Simply brilliant and in a spectacular setting.”



Read more about the play, check out the discussion guide, and see pictures from the production.



Forever Free

The Madame X Society hosted the annual Midsummer Night’s Picnic, which included the final dress rehearsal and a pre-show conversation with director Edgar Landa. The Picnic, audience donations, and an anonymous audience match ensures that Thin Air Shakespeare remains Forever Free.



Artist Spotlight



Charls Hall

Charls is a Chicago based actor and teaching artist who has been performing with Off Square Theatre since 2017 in addition to his extensive work across the country at theaters including Shakespeare and Company, A Noise Within, Baltimore Center Stage, Celebration Theatre, and Southern California Shakespeare Festival. His performances with Thin Air Shakespeare include A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, and The Tempest. His countless regional credits include The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Revised, Love’s Labours Lost, Mother Courage and Her Children, Romeo & Juliet, Julius Caesar, Macbeth, Measure For Measure, and many more.



Amanda Knehans

Amanda is a Los Angeles based Scenic Designer, Production Designer and Art Director who works in both theater and film. Credits with Off Square Theatre include several Thin Air Shakespeare productions and 2020’s youth musical The Music Man, Jr. In addition to dozens of theater credits, her recent film credits include Art Director on George and Tammy (Paramount), The Santa Clauses Season 2 (Disney), Barry Season 4 (HBO), Purple Hearts and The Woman in the House (Netflix), Single Parents Season 1 (ABC), The Stranger (Fox, Quibi), The Wedding Year (Lakeshore Entertainment), and East LosHigh Season 4 and 5 (Hulu). She is a member of the Art Directors Guild and USA 829.



Madison Haws

Madison grew up in Jackson, appearing in countless OST youth musicals before pursuing her BFA in acting from BYU. She has appeared in several Thin Air Shakespeare productions, and now holds an MBA from Pepperdine University. Her favorite past credits include; “Macbeth” (Witch), “Seussical The Musical” (Cat in the Hat), “Mill on the Floss” (Maggie) and “Dracula” (Van Helsing)

Youth Education Programs

- **Thieme Youth Musical**
- **Missoula Children's Theater**
- **Master Classes**
- **Playshops**
- **Professional Internships**
- **Off Square Players**
Student-run production company



"Working with Off Square Theatre has pushed me as a performer and given me new responsibilities as a leader. At Off Square I have a community of peers, teachers, and mentors that support me as I take risks and push myself. Throughout my time at Off Square, I have developed friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. I am so grateful for the opportunities Off Square has provided me with, and am so excited for my future in the program!"

Liz Echt - Student Director, performer, & production intern

Thieme Youth Musical: The Sound of Music

Off Square Theatre produces the Thieme Youth Musical annually, honoring the legacy of Mike and Jean Louise Thieme. As dedicated Off Square Theatre board members, they believed it was imperative to offer high quality performing arts experiences for youth. Each year, we honor their legacy by sharing the creative energy of youth on-stage and by giving hundreds of area students the opportunity to experience live theater performed by their peers on the mainstage at the Center for the Arts.



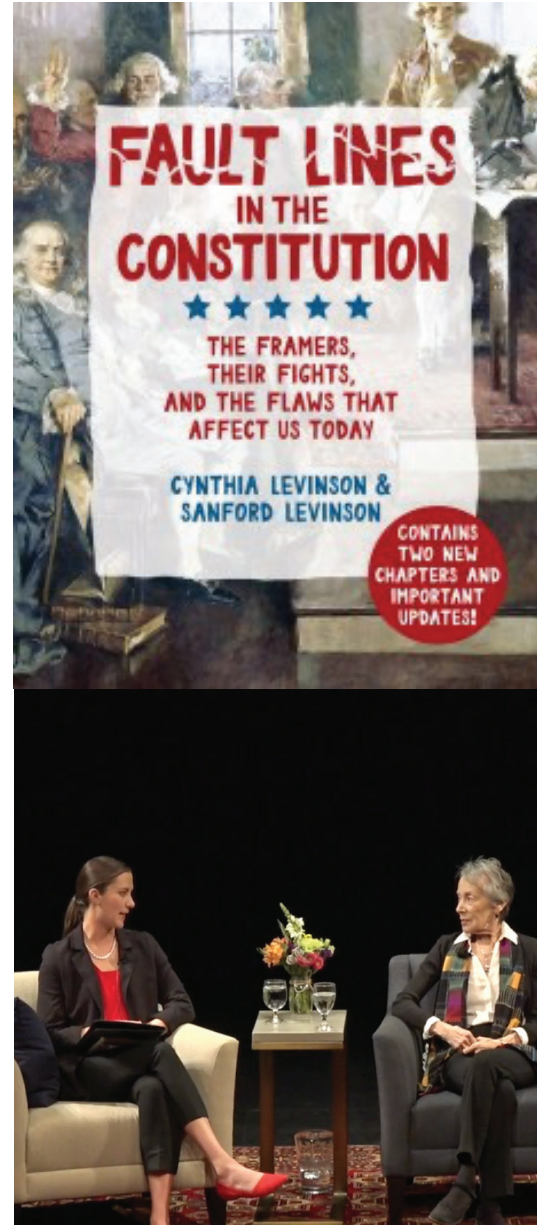
Read more about the play, check out the discussion guide, and see pictures from the production.



Rising Star Soiree

In February, the Madame X Society hosted the Rising Star Soirée in support of Off Square Theatre's youth education programs. The evening included a preview performance of *The Sound of Music* and attendees learned about the deep impact OST's programs have on area youth. We are grateful to attendees and sponsors for making it a dazzling evening!

BRIDGING DIVIDES



Community Conversation

In realizing our vision of theatre as a catalyst for connection, Off Square Theatre partnered with Wyoming Humanities to host authors Cynthia Levinson and Sanford Levinson for a Community Conversation inspired by their book – *Fault Lines In the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today*. This book was used by playwright Heidi Schreck as she was developing *What the Constitution Means to Me*. In May, the Levinsons visited four schools, hosted a workshop discussion at the Teton County Library, and completed their visit with a lively community conversation in Jackson that livestreamed to groups gathered in Sheridan, Torrington, Gillette, and Casper. Teton County Library Foundation partnered to help give away 300 copies of the book and other program partners included Almost Authors, the Wonder Institute, and the Center for the Book.

Off Square Theatre executes a variety of programs throughout the year to expand our impact and catalyze connection across the community. We also provide discussion guides and other resources to support audiences in digging deeper and continuing the conversation beyond the theater.



Youth Musical Tour

Students brought excerpts from *The Sound of Music* to residents of Sage Living through a partnership with St. John's Health Foundation.

Off Script

It's a book club, for plays! Through Off Script, community members read plays and theatre-connected book or watch films and gather for a casual discussion with the OST team and special guests. 2023 highlights included Josephine Tey's novel *The Daughter of Time* – which works through the mystery surrounding Richard III – and *Copenhagen / Oppenheimer* – a conversation including KHOL film critic Jeff Counts about the recently-released film and the 1998 play by Michael Frayn.

National Partnerships

OST connects theatre in Wyoming and Jackson with the national cultural ecosystem while working to advance the role of professional theater across the nation. Key partners and affiliations include:

- + Folger Shakespeare Library
- + Theatre Communications Group, Inc.
- + Wyoming Arts Alliance
- + Actors' Equity Association
- + Professional Non-Profit Theater Coalition



Partner Spotlight: Center for the Arts

In January, OST partnered with the Center for the Arts for two presentations in the Center Theater. The *Second City* delighted a sold-out audience and Emmy winners Manual Cinema shared their critically acclaimed family show *Leonardo! A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster* with all ages. By partnering, audiences in Jackson experienced these national tours while maintaining accessible ticket pricing.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

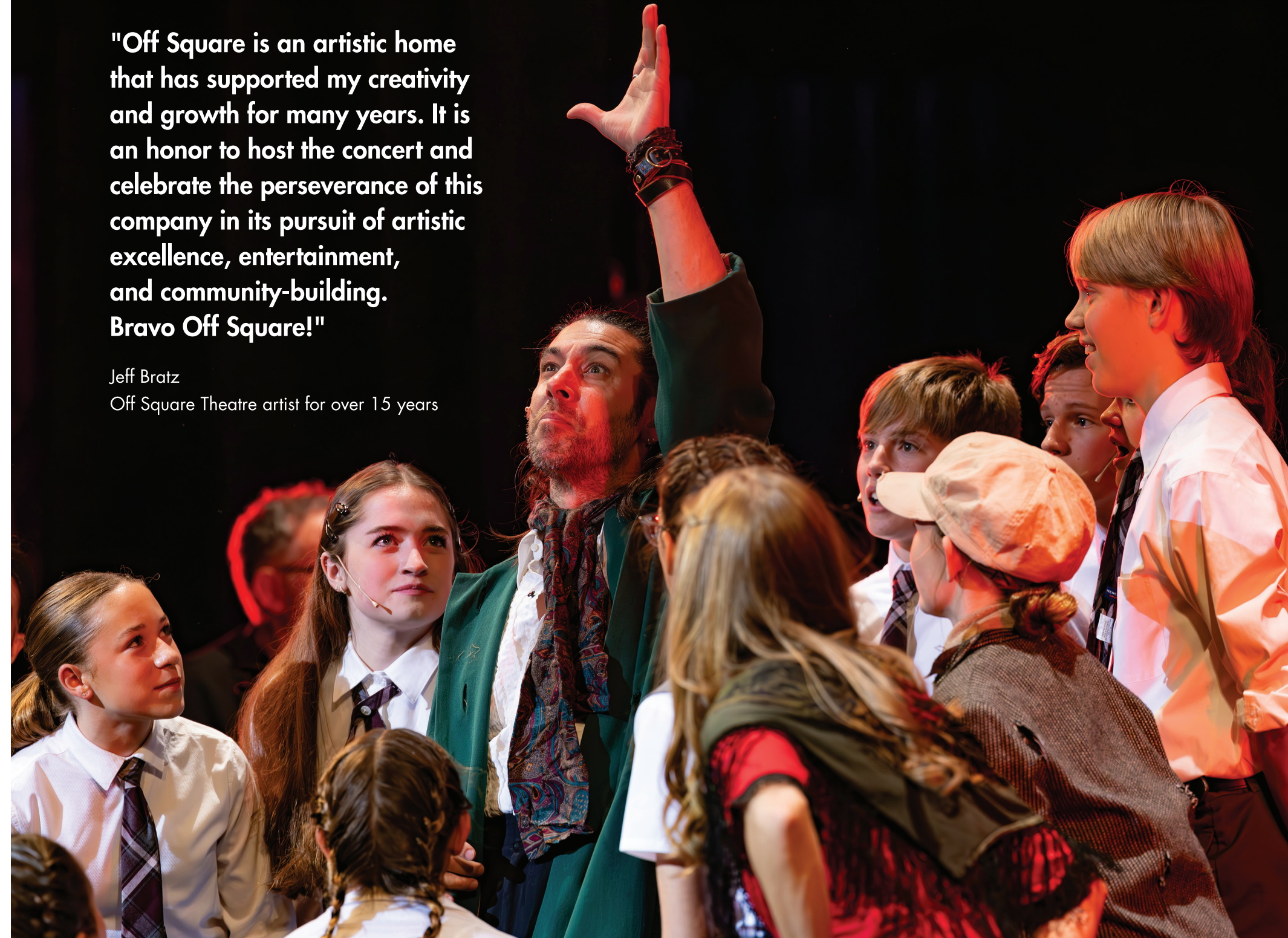
From Off Square to Times Square

Off Square Theatre celebrated its 25th anniversary with a one-of-a-kind party and performance. A musical revue with highlights from past Off Square Theatre musical productions delighted audiences in the first act. Numbers included "Cal the Cowboy" from *Petticoat Rules* with Pam Drews Phillips accompanying; a youth musical medley featuring *Annie*, *Mary Poppins*, *Matilda Jr.*, and more; excerpts from *Cabaret* and *A Chorus Line*; and a reprise of original music by Melissa Elliott composed for the 2022 Thin Air Shakespeare production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Act two saw Broadway vocalists Jessica Hendy and Blaine Alden Krauss taking the stage to bring Times Square directly to Off Square with hits ranging from *Hamilton* and *Les Miserables* to *Ragtime* and *Wicked*. All joined together for a final rendition of "The Impossible Dream" from *Man of La Mancha* before the audience was invited to the stage to finish the night dancing with Calle Mambo. Thank you to all who joined us for the unforgettable night!



"Off Square is an artistic home that has supported my creativity and growth for many years. It is an honor to host the concert and celebrate the perseverance of this company in its pursuit of artistic excellence, entertainment, and community-building. Bravo Off Square!"

Jeff Bratz
Off Square Theatre artist for over 15 years



Thank you for your support!

Support from our donors enables Off Square Theatre to advance our vision of theatre as a catalyst for connection. We are grateful for the gifts we received from the following donors between September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023.

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Donor Spotlight



"First Western Trust partners with Off Square Theatre because we share a commitment to introducing children to cultural experiences as a way to inspire new ideas and new ways of thinking. Access to high quality arts education in our region is essential, and Off Square proves year after year that theatre changes children's lives."

- Mike Eden / First Western Trust

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any errors or omissions.*

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For over 20 years, Madame X has been supporting excellence in theatre arts at Off Square Theatre Company. The Madame X Society is a dedicated group of visionary, creative, and glamorous women who support Off Square Theatre through annual support. Membership is available throughout the year.



The Shubert Foundation is dedicated to sustaining and advancing the live performing arts in the United States, with a particular emphasis on not-for-profit professional theatres. Off Square Theatre was proud to receive its first unrestricted operating grant from The Shubert in 2023.



2024 SEASON

THEME YOUTH MUSICAL
OLIVER!

FEB 23-24
● THE CENTER THEATER

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE
a production of Off Square
HERCULES

APRIL 13
● THE CENTER THEATER

Thin Air SHAKESPEARE
Romeo & Juliet

**JULY 12-14
& 18-21**
● THE CENTER AMPHITHEATER

SWEENEY TODD
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

OCT 18 - NOV 2
BLACK BOX ● THE CENTER

OFF SQUARE PLAYERS
IN PERFORMANCE

DEC 5-7
BLACK BOX ● THE CENTER

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