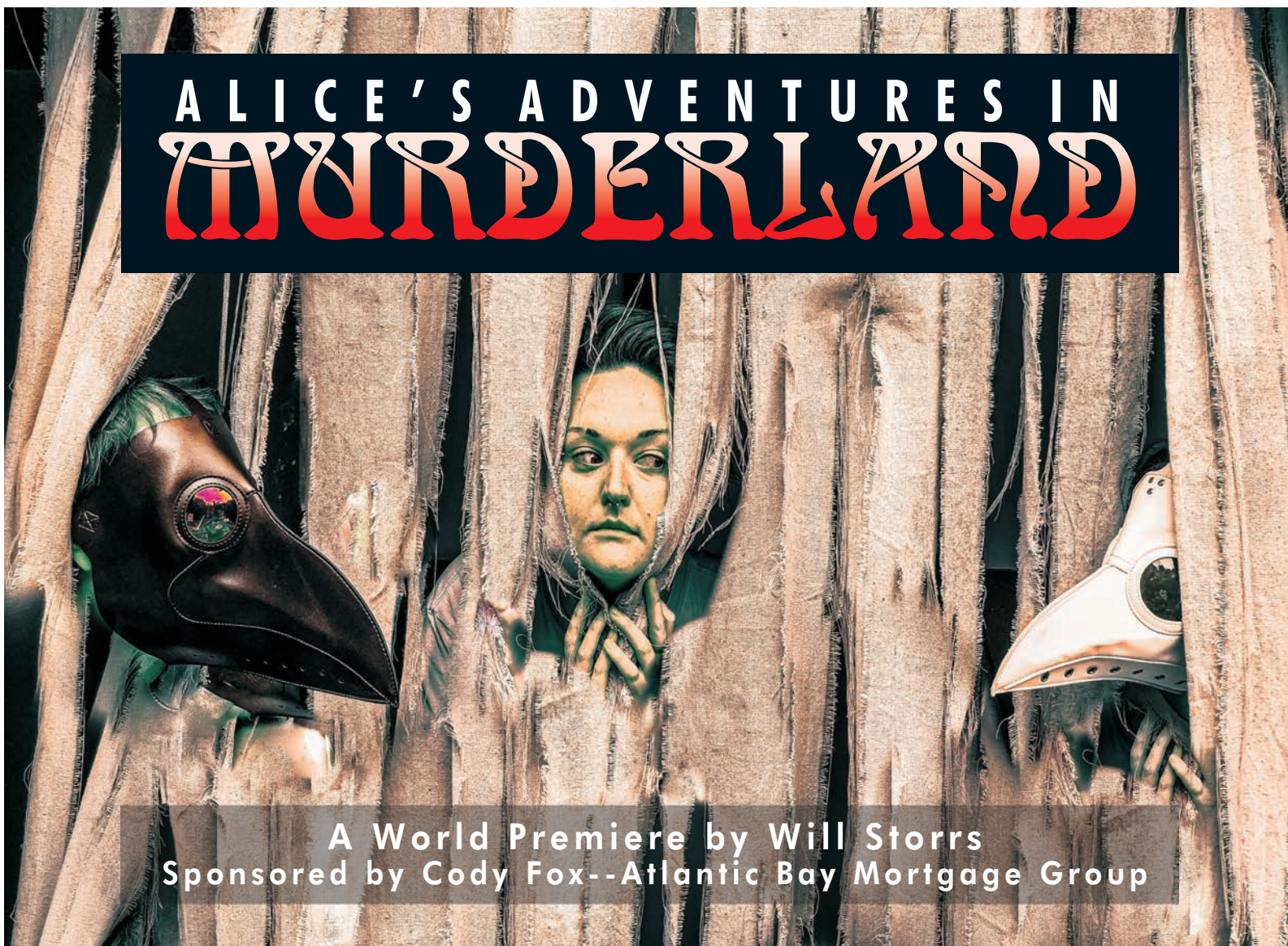


Playbill

Montford Park
Players
51st Season



ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN MURDERLAND



A World Premiere by Will Storrs
Sponsored by Cody Fox--Atlantic Bay Mortgage Group

October 6-28, Friday-Sunday at 7:30pm, Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre, 92 Gay Street, Asheville, NC



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This project receives support from the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Dept of Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, through the Asheville Area Arts Council

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THE MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS PRESENTS

Wonderland Legacies: Alice’s Adventures in Murderland

A World Premiere

**Written by
Will Storrs**

Directed by
Deanna Braine-Smith

CAUTION – This production is rated R for language and violence and is not recommended for children.

CAST

Rachel Fralick	Alice	Darren Marshall	Tweedle Dee
Ronnie Z. Nielsen	Red Queen	Carley "goober"	
Naimah Coleman	Red Queen	Berdine	Tweedle Dum
Will Storrs	Cheshire Cat	Kat Bell	Fight corps
Jon Robinson	Mad Hatter	Andy Bowman	Fight corps
Gabby Bailey	White Rabbit	Cody Fox	Mock Turtle/Fight corps
Gaia Eggert	Doormouse	Selah Hamilton	Fight corps
Faust	Caterpillar	Ben Means	Fight corps

PRODUCTION STAFF

Deanna Braine Smith -- Director
Caitlin Lane -- Stage Manager
Danielle Allen -- Costumer
Scott Bean -- Sound Design
Brooks Wallace -- Fight Choreography Team
Jon Robinson -- Set Design
Artemis Adams -- Armorer
Devyn Ray -- Intimacy Choreographer

TO OUR PATRONS

- Thank you for joining us this evening. We hope you enjoy our production of *Alice's Adventures in Murderland*, as presented by The Montford Park Players, North Carolina's longest running Shakespeare Festival. We're glad to welcome you to our **51st Season**, and we're delighted to have you back!
- There will be one twenty-minute intermission. Concessions will be available at the entrance to the amphitheatre. Many thanks to **The Matt & Molly Team** for sponsoring Shakespeare's Tavern, where you will find a delightful selection of wines and local beers on tap.
- We are pleased to accept all major credit/debit cards, cash, checks, PayPal, me and Venmo (@MontfordParkPlayers) for your donations and concessions. Our actors will walk through the audience with buckets if you'd like to donate by cash, check, PayPal or Venmo, and all payment forms are welcome at Shakespeare's Tavern.
- Please turn the volume off on all cell phones and pagers to avoid distracting your fellow audience members.
- Flash photography is not permitted in the theatre.
- The Montford Park Players is going GREEN! Please help us conserve the environment by depositing your empty cans in the marked recycle bins.
- Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments by phone at (828) 254-5146, email at info@montfordparkplayers.org, or snail mail at Montford Park Players, PO Box 2663, Asheville NC 28802-2663. You can also follow us on Facebook (MontfordParkPlayers) or on Twitter (MontfordPlayers) or on Instagram (#montfordparkplayers)

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the board of directors and the members of The Montford Park Players, I want to personally welcome YOU to our **51st season of free theatre!**

We're pleased to tell you that ALL our shows are free-of-charge – all season long! We at MPP envision a world in which everyone can experience exceptional live theatre, regardless of the ability to pay. Therefore, all of our shows are donation only. "Pay what we're worth." "Pay what you can." Some may even call it crazy. Call it what you will – and enjoy the show!

Here's our summer 2023 schedule – all shows will run for five weeks, except for Alice (4 weeks):

- 5/19/2023 6/17/2023 Wendy & Peter (a Peter Pan story) by Skyler Goff - a world premiere
- 6/23/2023 7/22/2023 Twelfth Night
- 7/28/2023 8/26/2023 Treasure Island by Honor Moor- a world premiere
- 9/1/2023 9/30/2023 The Tempest
- 10/6/2023 10/28/2023 Wonderland Legacies: Alice's Adventures in Murderland by Will Storrs – a world premiere and our Halloween show!

- This will be a 23 week season with 67 scheduled performances
- All performances Friday – Sunday at 7:30 pm, except where noted.

Here's a glimpse of what's on the horizon for MPP:

- We're expanding our lower stage – we're made it bigger and taller, so you can more easily see and hear our actors!
- We've completed repaving our back driveway to 100 Jersey St. For our visitors with mobility issues, this is a perfect place to park for easiest access to the theatre seating. We plan to continue raising funds for more renovations, and we appreciate your support!

Making the most of your visit:

We want you to fully enjoy your experience with us. Feel free to bring a picnic and your favorite beverage, or purchase wine, sodas, local beers and snacks at our concession cart. Four-legged friends are always welcome and will receive a free treat at our concessions stand!

We are so grateful to our current donors, sponsors, and advertisers and YOU, our faithful audience, without whom we could not exist. Now sit back, relax, and be ready to laugh, cry, and be entertained as the curtain rises on another great production by the Montford Park Players.

John Russell

Executive Director



**MONTFORD PARK
PLAYERS**

MEET THE CAST & CREW



Stage Managing *Twelfth Night*. You may recognize them from their onstage appearances at ACT which include: *Transitions*, *Elf* (2022), *Bright Star*, and most recently *Pippin* as the Leading Player! Come see them return to the ACT stage in December as Deb for their second production of *Elf the musical!* Special thanks to Deanna, Caitlin, Will, and this amazing cast for their wonderful support and patience, while Naimah juggles 3 shows at once!

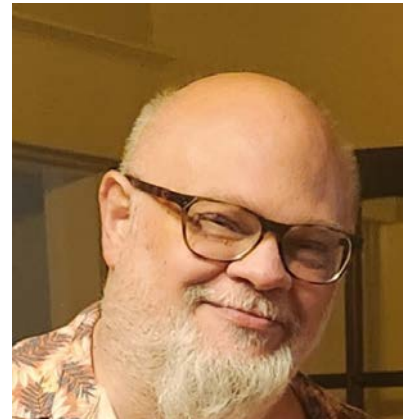


Maddie Wright (Fight Corps)- Maddie is very excited to be joining Montford Park Players for the first time! She moved to North Carolina about a year ago now after graduating from the University of Florida. She is excited about continuing to explore this beautiful area and have fun with community theater!



Carly "Goober" Berdine (Tweedle Dum) is very excited about joining this amazing cast for *Alice in Wonderland* with the

Montford Park Players. Previous roles include Black Dog in *Treasure Island*, and part of the ensemble in *The Three Musketeers*. She has also performed at Attic Salt in the role of Dropo in the production of *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*. Outside of theater, Goober can be found woodworking, swing dancing, or playing games. She is very excited for this show with this cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show!



Darren Marshall (Tweedle dee) Darren showed up to audition for *The Tempest* in 2006. The director was so intimidated by his booming presence, that he was cast out of fear. He's still here. No one is really certain where he came from, but rumor has it there is a lot of corn there. He is definitely not a cookie, but he may just be a Muppet wearing a human suit.



Rachel Fralick (Alice)- Not a native (but she got here as fast as she could), Ra-

chel recently joined the Asheville theatre scene with MPP's 50th season in *Hamlet*, and hasn't looked back since. This year she's been seen in a staged reading for the musical *Riveted* with The Magnetic Theatre, and joined MPP as Hook/Mr. Darling in *Wendy & Peter*, and Sebastian in *The Tempest*. She's so thrilled to bring you this spooky, sword-fighty adventure with an unbeatable cast and crew of dear friends."



Jon Robinson (Mad Hatter) is an Asheville native actor and artist most recently seen as Long John Silver in MPP's *Treasure Island*. Favorite roles include the titular role of Hamlet, Oberon (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Touchstone (*As You Like It*), Athos (*The Three Musketeers*), Hamlet the Zombie Lord (*Living Dead in Denmark*) and Abe (*Abe Lincoln and Uncle Tom in the White House* at Different Strokes). Away from the stage, Jon spends his time drawing & painting show-inspired pieces. He shares his love for art with his 9 year old daughter & his fondness for swordplay with his 5 year old son.

Naimah Coleman (Red Queen)- is excited for their first time onstage for an MPP Production. They've always adored the Red Queen growing up and are excited to bring their dream to life with this role! Previous MPP work includes

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Photo by Travis Bordley

MEET THE CAST & CREW



Cody Fox (Mock Turtle/Fight Corps) is joining Montford Park Players for a second time with first appearance in *Wendy & Peter*. He is a North Carolina native but has been in Asheville since 2012. Throughout high school and college, he was in numerous plays along with some experience in set & lighting design, costume design, and directing. These plays included *Much Ado About Nothing* as Claudio, *The Boys Next Door* as Arnold, and *Pirates of Penzance* as Police Sergeant Roald. Cody attended Appalachian State University where he received a minor in theatre, with his majors in accounting and finance. He is excited to be part of an amazing & talented cast and share his passion for theatre



Andy Bowman (Fight Corps) is delighted to join the cast of *Alice's Adventures in Murderland*. He has been acting for nine years around the Asheville area, and first joined MPP in 2016 as Tiny Tim in a production of *A Christ-*

mas Carol. Some of his favorite roles include playing Thor Waldgrave in Attic Salt Theatre Company's Production of *The Nerd*, And Barry Glickman in a production of *The Prom* with Asheville Community Theatre. Andy has had such a great time working with this cast and crew, and hopes you enjoy the show!



Kat Bell (Fight Corps)- Born in Maryland to now award winning filmmakers Melissa and Michael Bell, Kat has now lived in Asheville for over 9 years and happily calls it her home. After a long hiatus from stage work she is coming back strong... dying a lot, but strong. And while we're pretty sure she's human she does show a lot of cat-like tendencies which some have theorized connects to her name, but no one is quite certain.



Gabrielle (Gabby) Bailey (White Rabbit) is a WNC based, indigenous actor, director and circus performer. Recent

roles in the area include Diwata in *Speech and Debate*, Queen Anne in *The Three Musketeers*, Juliet in *Living Dead in Denmark*, and Ophelia in *Hamlet*. Gabby is stoked to push her acrobatic and combative skills in this highly anticipated production under the gaze of her favorite director to work with.



Ben Means (Doctor/Fight Corps) - New to the area and MPP, but not theatre, Ben is very excited to be a part of this "mad" show. Some of his favorite past roles include Judas Iscariot/Sigmund Freud in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead!*, and Georgie Pazinski in *King O' the Moon*. Although he misses his Colorado theatre fam, he's had a blast during these rehearsals and hopes y'all enjoy the show, too!



Faust (Caterpillar) (they/them) is frabjoused to be making their debut with

Montford after a history of enthusiastic speculation. This is also their first production following a four year hiatus from acting. Favorite past roles include Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and time spent helping run tech. They would like to thank everyone involved in the Montford Park Players for welcoming them back to the Asheville theatre community with warmth and sincerity. They'd also like to thank their family and friends for their continued support and for enduring their long talks of shoes, and ships, and sealing-wax (and cab-bages and kings).



Selah "Bean" Atwood(Fight Corps) is thrilled to be part of this production! They have done theater for around nine years, starting off with Montford Moppet's *Taming of the Shrew*, which was the start of their love for Shakespeare. Some other roles played on the Montford stage earlier this year include Jim Hawkins(*Treasure Island*), and John Darling(*Wendy and Peter*). Horatio(*Hamlet*), Prospero/Sebastian(*The Tempest*), Goneril(*King Lear*) are a few of their past favorite roles(performed with the Montford Moppets). However, Selah's top role so far has been Cassius(*Julius Caesar*) played in a duck onesie at Attic Salt. Selah has done various other theater and screenplay projects, but the wonderful community that makes up Montford will always be the favorite. Many thanks to everyone who helped this production come to life.

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MEET THE CAST & CREW



Gaia Eggert (Dormouse) is thrilled to be back for their 9th play with the Montford park players. Previously you could've caught them in *Shakespeare in Love*, *Henry the 4th part 1*, *Robin Hood: Quest for Justice*, *Winters Tale*, *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, *Living Dead in Denmark*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and just earlier this season *Wendy and Peter*. With the Magnetic Theatre you could've seen them in 2019s *Traitor* or *Beautiful Cages* in 2022. Besides acting they enjoy rock climbing, walking in the woods and writing poetry. They could not be happier to be in this production with these amazing people and they hope you enjoy this badass show!



Will Storrs (Playwright/Cheshire Cat) - Will has been with the Montford Park Players for... a bit now. His credits include Aramis in *The Three Musketeers*, Patroclus in *Troilus &*

Cressida, and Laertes in *Living Dead in Denmark* to name a few. He has also performed with the Magnetic, Parkway Playhouse, and Asheville Community Theatre! This is his first play that he has written being performed on the Montford stage. He also had his first novel, *Perdition Falls: Book One of the Parabellum Knights Saga*, published earlier this year! Yea him.



Deanna Braine Smith (Director) is a bit surprised and extremely grateful to be directing at Montford once again. She directed her first show two years ago with *Living Dead in Denmark* and is so happy to be back. While new to directing, her stage combat and fight choreography work began 10 years ago. Previous exhibitions of punching and stabbing in Montford shows include *Living Dead*, *Three Musketeers*, and *Hamlet*. As always, she thanks her husband, Brian Smith, for his patience, love and support. Lastly, this show wouldn't have been possible without all the incredible work the amazing people involved in this production have put in. Enjoy the madness!



Caitlin Lane (Stage Manager)- Caitlin got her start with the Montford Park Players in 2006 with *A Christmas Carol* and has been happy to call Montford her theatre home ever since. Some of her favorites with the Montford Park Players include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Peter Pan*, and *Living Dead in Denmark*. Other credits include productions with: Different Strokes! Performing Arts Collective, Dark Horse Theatre, Asheville Community Theatre, Attic Salt Theatre Company, and the Magnetic Theatre.



Danielle Allen (Costumer) is so excited to be working with Montford Park Players this summer! You may have seen her as Phoebe in the Montford Park Players' 50th season opener *As You Like It*, as Titania in MPP's production of *Living Dead in Denmark*,

and various roles in the repertory production of *Pericles and Macbeth*. She truly hopes you will enjoy this spooky production!



Artemis Adams (Armorer) Artemis is three angry badgers in a trench coat with a jack-o-lantern for a head who stepped out of retirement for this show. He had an excruciatingly fun time building this set of armor. It's now time for a three month nap. He hopes you enjoy the show.



Scott Bean (sound design) has been involved with sound in some way since his birth. He is happy to be helping with this production and hopes that you enjoy the show! Pistolfish loves Sparkelfish, Wigglefish, and Giggelfish. the end



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As unconventional as it may be, I feel it's only right to start this note with a warning. Beware! *Wonderland Legacies: Alice's Adventures in Murderland* is not your typical Alice in Wonderland story. As the title suggests, there's going to be a lot of murder. Murder, violence, death, and a healthy dose of cursing.

If you're still on board and won't hold me responsible for ruining one of your favorite childhood stories, then welcome!

This show has been in the making for two years. As with all things, it started with an idea. "What if we did Alice in Wonderland, but, like, really dark and with tons of fights?" Thus, *Alice in Murderland* was born. Too bad that name had already been taken by a movie and a graphic novel. So, we tweaked it a bit. Because if "Murder" wasn't in the title, then what was the point?

From that first idea, just a title really, a story and a production that I am so very proud of has been made. Will Storrs wove a beautiful, mad, violent story. And then did maybe the scariest thing imaginable: trusted someone else with the telling. I am incredibly grateful for that trust, not just from him, but from every member of the cast, crew, and production team that have come on this tumble down the rabbit hole with me. Their work, dedication, and passion have made this show something incredible and inspired me every step of the way to be better – a better director, a better choreographer, and a better person.

I started directing two years ago with Montford's production of *Living Dead in Denmark*. I had never wanted to be a director, but ever since *Living Dead*, I have been looking forward to directing my next show. At the same time, it felt like I had caught lightning in a bottle, a feat that should be impossible once and surely isn't repeatable. But sometimes I am wrong. *Murderland* has been a different, yet equally fulfilling experience. Being able to work with such talented and passionate people to tell a story that is so unique and meaningful is nothing short of a gift. And, of course, the fights were a ton of fun!

If you take one thing away from our story, I hope it's this: Learn not to be a passive protagonist.

This line has been a touchstone for me throughout the process. Because life is hard. Love is difficult. Art is not easy. All of these things take effort and a refusal to give up. Nothing that is important is easy and anything that is worth having, worth doing, worth being, is worth fighting for. Our stories are our own and we deserve the chance to write them ourselves. If that means others will call us "mad", then so be it.

After all, we're all mad here...

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Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

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N Z R L R L D O Y M Z X U H Z A A U D L Z F I R
G R Y T W O A Q E U F Y E J V Z L S H E P M K A
C V O R V K H D N L S R A W X M C C R I A C H E
Q S W U M S R P F B T Z T I D O O R U G J H P H
P Q E T I C B Y Q X M T P S L K U H I I B E Z F
I H L K Q V S W X Z J M O M I V J N Q X A S T O
N H J C G E V Y Y D T G V B Z C A O Y B Q H R N
T T N O D E R O S E S C M O T T X E Z D L I N E
Y N G M V F O Y R B Q U Q Q I W O X T M J R Y E
E R G R I F O M Q A E E H O B D E R W E N E Z U
T I F I O B Y J F T Q H N Z B Z D E I U L C N Q
U A M P H W O P G O T C S X A K P T M Y J A G S
D F R O K X W D D H F I D R R N M T P A R T S B
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White rabbit
Cheshire Cat

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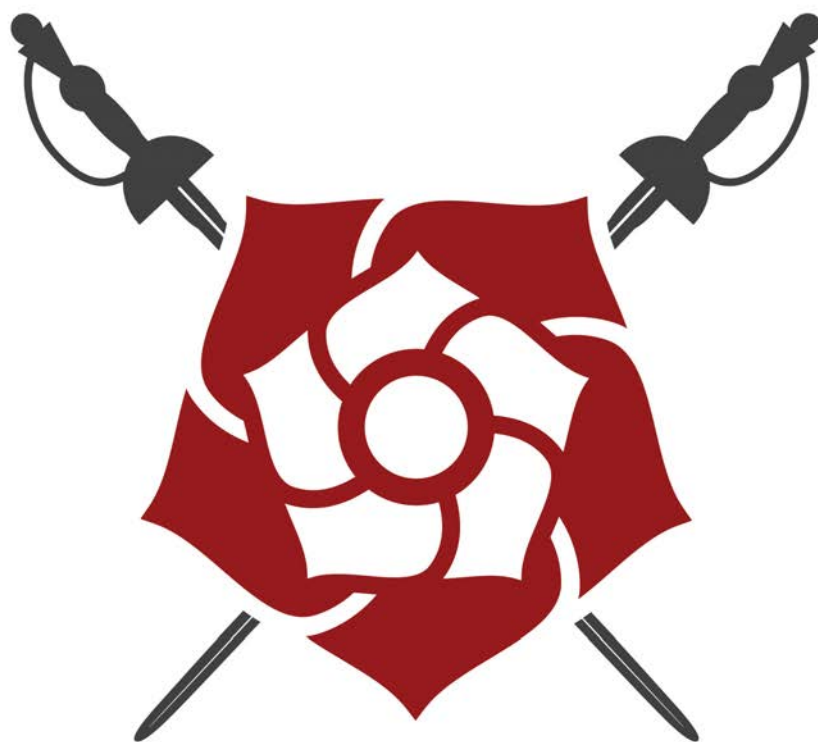
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MONTFORD PARK
PLAYERS

LOOKING FAB AT
FIFTY ONE!!!

ABOUT US

How we got here

The mission of Montford Park Players is to serve as North Carolina's longest running Shakespeare theatre company, primarily dedicated to performing the works of Shakespeare, and dedicated to providing exceptional dramatic entertainment for the enrichment, education, and enjoyment of our audiences.

1973

Montford Park Players (MPP) was founded by Hazel Robinson in 1973 with a rendition of Shakespeare's ever-popular pastoral comedy *As You Like It*, performed in a municipal park on Montford Avenue in the historic Montford neighborhood.

1975

MPP was established as a 501(c)3 organization in 1975. Our operating support comes from individuals making annual gifts and audience donations, foundation grants, business sponsorships, donated services and materials. A few years later, with our summer program well-established, MPP began presenting Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* and was instrumental in establishing an *A Dickens Village Celebration* in Biltmore Village as part of Asheville's winter holiday celebrations. Participating in *A Dickens Village* continues some 40+ years later.

1983

Performances continued in Montford Park for the next nine years. In 1983 the City of Asheville completed construction of a flat-roofed storage building near Riverside Cemetery for our use. The U.S. Navy Construction Battalion ("Sea-Bees") terraced the steep hillside to create an audience seating area, and the Montford Amphitheatre was inaugurated with the production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

1997

Asheville celebrated its 200th anniversary in 1997. In honor of the Asheville Bicentennial and the Montford Park Players' 25th anniversary, we researched and presented the earliest recorded Shakespearean play performed in Asheville: *As You Like It*, directed by founder Hazel Robinson. In recognition of our founder's contribution to the community, City Council renamed the amphitheatre the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre.

2006

Executive Director John Russell became the first employee and CEO in 2006. He has been instrumental in growing the audience and enhancing the audience experience since his arrival. He was appointed to the Board of North Carolina Arts Council in July 2017 by Governor Roy Cooper and currently serves on the North Carolina Governor's School Foundation Board as Vice President and Fundraising Chair.

2019

MPP expanded the summer educational offerings in 2019 through the Montford Moppets, our youth theatre in residence. We expanded from one session to three three-week sessions and the annual holiday production of *A Christmas Carol*.

ABOUT US

We are proud of our over 50-year history as the vehicle and venue for those new to theatre to learn, grow, and flourish as actors and technicians. Our members share a common desire to perform the works of Shakespeare and are uniquely passionate about presenting his plays to locals and visitors alike. Many of our members have continued their involvement in community theatre after an initial experience with the Montford Park Players or the Montford Moppets. Approximately two hundred members donate their time, talent, and expertise to productions annually. We encourage participation by people of all ages and backgrounds and celebrate our diversity. We are a member of Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC), the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC), the Shakespeare Theatre Association, and the Institute of Outdoor Theatre. We are the recipient of support from the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Dept. of Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts with funding through the Asheville Area Arts Council. MPP ranks among the top three outdoor theatres in North Carolina in attendance.

We are especially grateful to the Tempie Avery Montford Community Center and to the Asheville Department of Parks and Recreation, who have provided a great measure of physical and logistical support throughout our existence.

Notable Notes

Awarded \$125,000 as recipient of one of the early awards made by the Buncombe County TDA

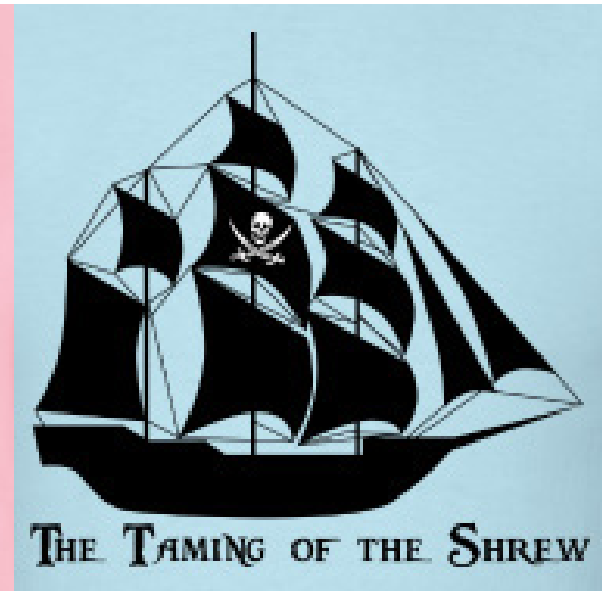
Montford Park Players is one of only 15 theatres worldwide to have staged every single one of Shakespeare's plays.

In 2018, MPP was named the Community Theatre Award winner by the North Carolina Theatre Conference.

Approximately 30 percent of our audience comes from outside the Asheville area and those travelers generate approximately \$1.6 million annually in revenue for the city and its businesses.

MPP is the longest-running Shakespeare festival in North Carolina, and annually records the third highest attendance of any outdoor theatre in the state, behind The Lost Colony and Unto These Hills.

MPP MERCH



Please visit our Spreadshirt shop <http://shop.spreadshirt.com/montfordpark> for these and other great items!



Men's T-Shirt



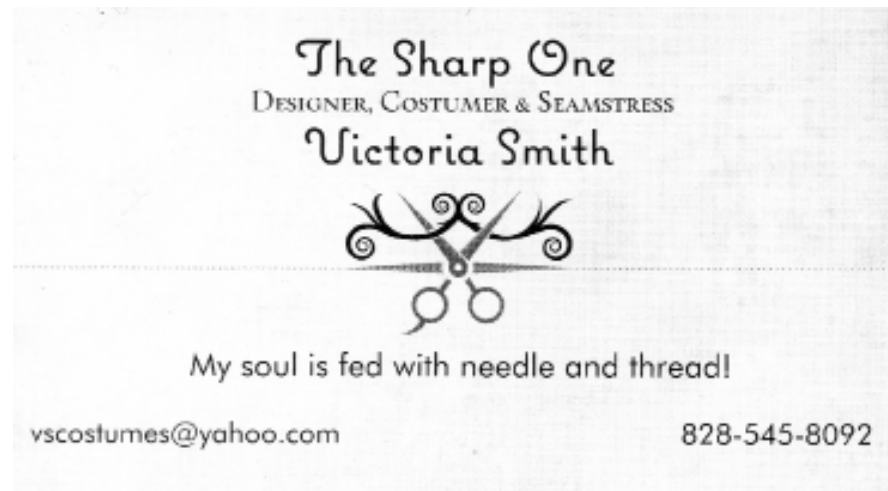
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Women's Premium T-Shirt



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Mountain Xpress: ☐ Calendar Item ☐ Advertisement

Daily Planet: ☐ Calendar Item ☐ Advertisement

The Laurel: ☐ Calendar Item ☐ Advertisement

☐ Other _____

Radio: ☐ WCQS ☐ 98.1 The River

☐ 880 Local Edge Radio

☐ Other _____

Website:

☐ montfordparkplayers.org (Montford Park Players)

☐ visitnc.com (our state tourism website)

☐ exploreasheville.com

☐ livewireasheville.com

☐ mountainxpress.com

☐ Other _____

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2018 Community Theatre Award



**Montford Park
Players**
Asheville

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The house staff and Board of Directors of MPP

Brian Smith – for design and construction of new thrust stage

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Our Advertisers

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 - Props
 - Set Construction

ALL volunteers become **MPP MEMBERS** which means, among other activities, you get to **VOTE ON WHAT SHOWS WE PERFORM** when you attend our annual picnic.

If you're interested in joining NC's Longest Running Shakespeare Festival contact us today...

Email --- info@montfordparkplayers.org

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“Things won are done;
joy's soul lies in the doing.”

Troilus & Cressida

92 Gay St, Asheville, NC 28801 ----- www.montfordparkplayers.org

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