

Seeing a really good play and wishing for a moment that the world might be okay

2022 IMPACT REPORT

ACTORS

THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE



CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Artistic Director

3

Access & Inclusion

4

Intersection of Art & Wellness

12

Cross-Cultural Coalition-Building

18

Learning & Creative Engagement

20

Additional Accolades

22

Cover images, from top left to bottom right: *THREADS OF OUR HISTORY: Where We Intertwine*. Photo by Denisha McCauley; Christina Acosta Robinson and Ken Robinson in *Still Ready*. Photo by by Ryan Armbrust; Jon Norman Schneider in *Every Brilliant Thing*. Photo by Denisha McCauley; *Louisville Sessions* artist Cicily; Tez of 2Deep at *Louisville Sessions Full Jam*. Photo by Danielle Marshall; *The Clinic* workshop at MindFest. Photo by Amelia Acosta Powell; Gregory Maupin as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol: Ghost Story*. Photo by Jonathan Roberts; *The Clinic* workshop at MindFest. Photo by Amelia Acosta Powell; audience response to *Every Brilliant Thing*; *THREADS OF OUR HISTORY: Where We Intertwine*. Photo by Denisha McCauley; Allan K. Washington and Shaun Bengson in *Where the Mountain Meets the Sea*. Photo by Jonathan Roberts.

Dear Actors Theatre of Louisville Community,

The past year at Actors Theatre of Louisville has been momentous. Many of the digital media projects that we seeded in the previous year came to fruition, including our video game and two virtual reality projects, and we were pleased to reincorporate in-person events, including four theatrical productions in our beloved Bingham Theater, a live outdoor concert of *Louisville Sessions* musicians, in-classroom Learning and Creative Engagement residencies, and community partnership events across our region.

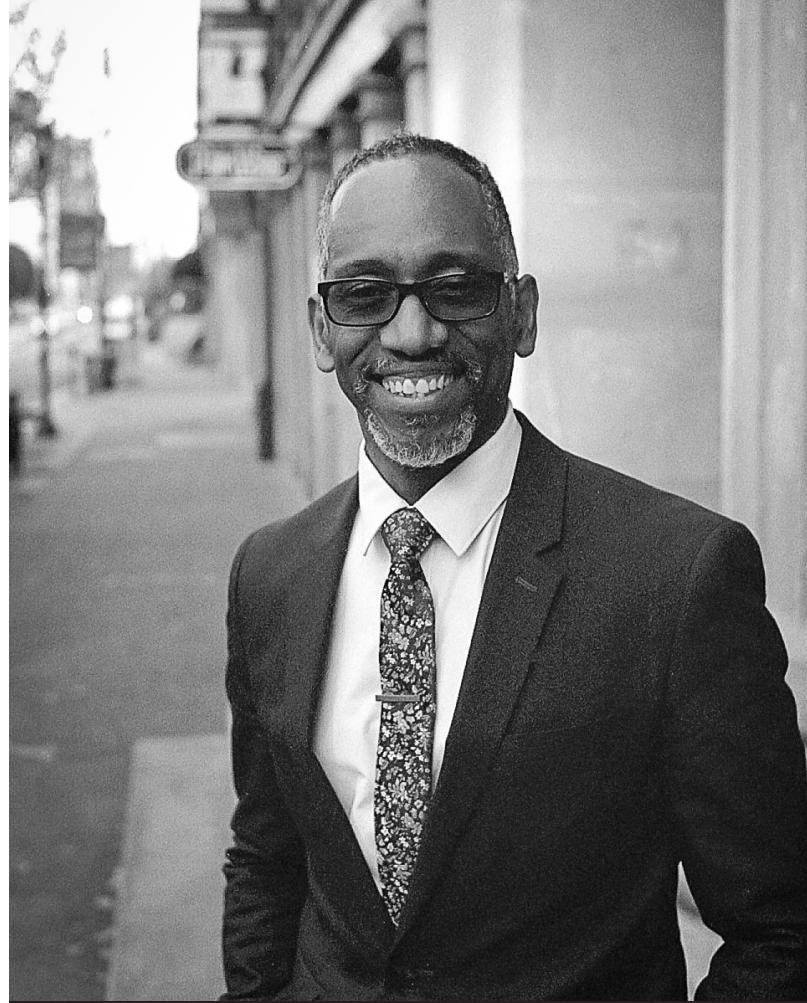
It has been thrilling to share space with artistic collaborators, colleagues, and audiences again. Even as we reopened the doors to our brick and mortar venues, we have simultaneously deepened our engagement with our global communities, and strengthened our commitment to making art radically accessible through our growing library of digital, multi-platform programs.

Our mission to unlock human potential, build community, and enrich quality of life by engaging people in theatre that reflects the wonder and complexity of our time has felt especially meaningful in a challenging year of rebuilding with intentionality. Galvanized by the belief that art is a critical part of a flourishing and healthy community, we have partnered with nurses, mental health advocates, and holistic care practitioners to root our work at the intersection of art and wellness.

It is with tremendous gratitude for all who support and engage in our storytelling (r)evolution that we share the 2021–2022 Impact Report.



Robert Barry Fleming
Executive Artistic Director



Robert Barry Fleming. Photo by Andrew Cenci.



Robert Barry Fleming. Photo by Philip Allgeier.

ACCESS & INCLUSION

Actors Theatre of Louisville is an arts and culture organization as social enterprise. As a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to service, building community, and creating positive social change, we strive to improve the lives of Kentuckians and inspire strategies for full flourishing globally. It is critical to the success of our mission that our services be accessible and inclusive to all, and especially to those historically and systemically excluded.

Memberships

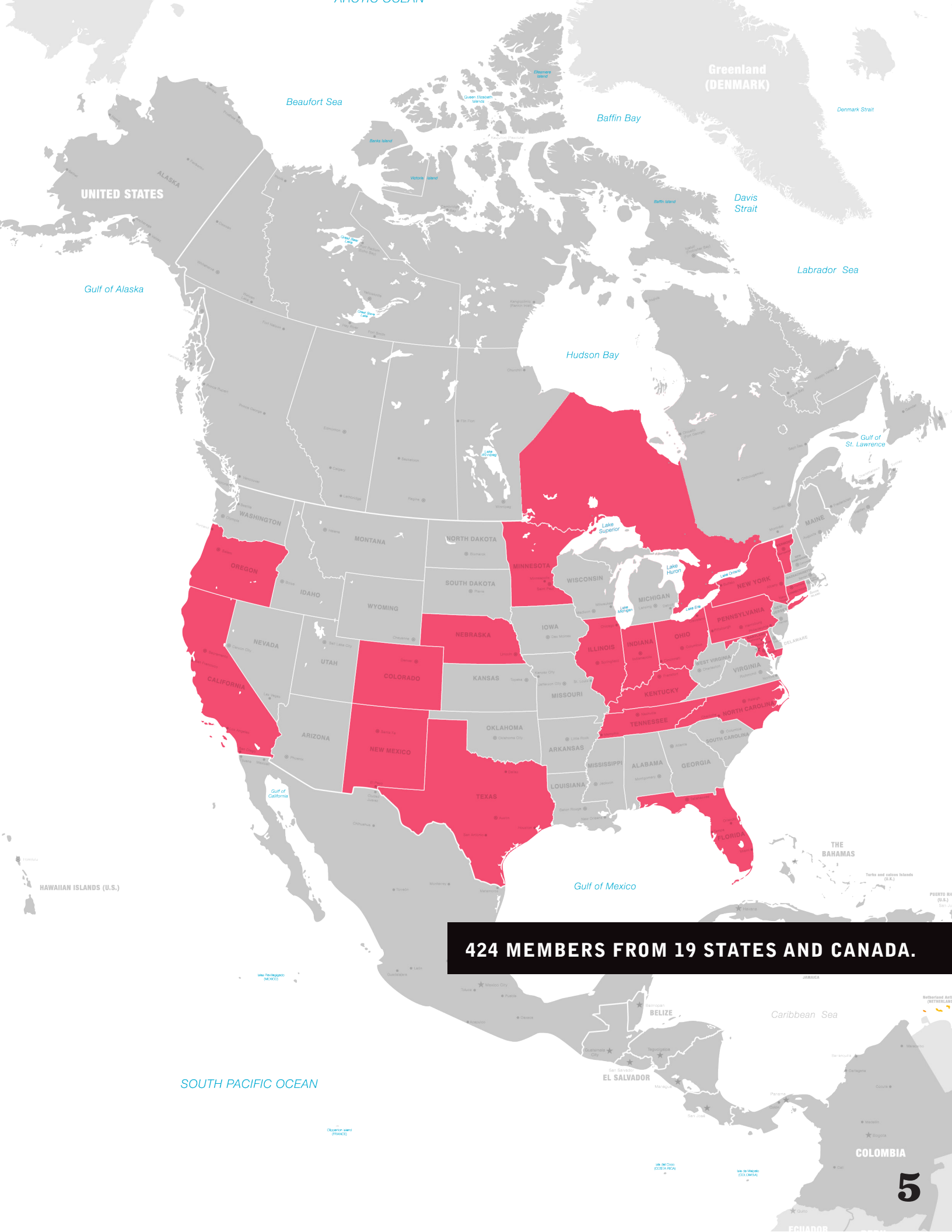
Our membership program, new this year, afforded Actors Theatre an opportunity to rebuild our programming structure into one that is sustainable and inclusive, maximizing accessibility and widening the circles of our communities. Our new model is flexible and responsive to current events, including the ever-changing realities of public health and safety in our community, as we offer in-person live events alongside our innovative new media and virtual storytelling platforms. Members can choose to engage with the offerings that best fit their needs – from international members participating virtually to live theatre aficionados visiting in-person, to the most dedicated fans selecting all of the above!



MEMBERSHIPS START AT ZERO COST, AND BENEFITS INCLUDE EARLY ACCESS TO TICKETS, ACCESS TO CONTENT IN THE DIGITAL MEMBER LIBRARY, DISCOUNTS ON TICKETS AND EVENTS, WAIVED FEES, AND MORE.

73% OF MEMBERS ARE NEW TO ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

27% OF MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY SUBSCRIBED TO ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE



424 MEMBERS FROM 19 STATES AND CANADA.

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN



Gregory Maupin as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol: Ghost Story*. Photo by Jonathan Roberts.

Radical Hospitality and Extravagant Welcome

In a new position created this year, the Radical Hospitality Coordinator serves as a vital connection between Actors Theatre's staff, volunteers, guests, and artists. The Radical Hospitality Coordinator, along with a thoughtfully cultivated Radical Hospitality Team, actively create a welcoming environment for all people, and especially for those belonging to systemically marginalized communities and identities that may not have felt welcomed at Actors Theatre before. Theatre staff and volunteers enjoyed welcoming guests and learning that many were attending Actors Theatre of Louisville for the first time.

91% of surveyed audience members reported that they felt welcome as their authentic selves.

“It was WONDERFUL to be back at ACTORS! We felt like we were welcome with open arms and everyone seemed so happy to see PATRONS!”

– Actors Theatre audience member

Programming That Meets the Audience Where They Are

A key strategy to increase the accessibility of Actors Theatre's programs is our transmedia, multi-platform approach. Some audiences connect with the dynamic energy of a live, in-person performance, while others tune in across the globe to share a virtual experience with an international cohort of gamers, and still others turn to music or a podcast to bring comfort on a long car commute. Whether our audiences engage in just one of our platforms or try every single one, we believe that everyone deserves a good story.



A Christmas Carol – on stage, on the radio, and in VR

Actors Theatre of Louisville has a 46-year history of bringing Dickens' classic redemption tale to life in our community through different adaptations. In 2021, we offered three innovative ways to access *A Christmas Carol*: In Real Life (IRL), Virtual Reality (VR), and as a Radio Play. Each production had its own unique perspective on the story—participants could opt into the format that was most accessible for them, or enhance the experience by engaging with all three.

A Christmas Carol: Ghost Story was our first live event back in the Bingham Theater since March 2020. The limited-engagement R&D Lab production explored the intersection of an actor's dynamic performance as Ebenezer Scrooge with a spirit world realized through motion-capture technology. With fifty tickets sold in the first ten minutes on sale, the four-performance run was entirely sold out. We look forward to continuing the development of the piece, incorporating what was learned from the R&D Lab sharings, and offering more performances in December 2022.

“We have been to every production of *A Christmas Carol* put on by Actors Theatre...I can't stop thinking about the amazing performance put on by the Scrooge character to be able to carry off what must be one of the longest no breaks monologues in my history of attending the theatre. It was much more than just a one-man show. He was able to tell the entire story without a break and include all of the characters whom we have come to know and love over the last 45 years with such expertise that I felt that there were multiple actors on the stage at the same time.”

– Longtime Actors Theatre audience member

FAQ: What's the R&D Lab?

Actors Theatre of Louisville has a proud history of new work development. Whether a world premiere or a familiar story takes center stage, we are committed to artistic innovation and experimentation. That includes creating opportunities for artists of various disciplines to try out new ideas. That process might begin with RESEARCH that happens behind the scenes, and sometimes the artistic process might include putting a story that is still in DEVELOPMENT in front of a brave and open-minded audience to learn more.

A Christmas Carol: Scrooge's Ghost Encounter was a unique and original live virtual reality experience developed in collaboration with Agile Lens and Heavenuue. A live performer appeared within the virtual world as Scrooge, interacting with the ghosts (pre-recorded and rendered in 3D using motion-capture technology) as well as the live audience members! The project was experienced on a VR headset by **129 intrepid users** from **17 different countries**.

“I am thrilled [Actors Theatre of Louisville] did this show and are experimenting with VR theater. I enjoyed getting close to the characters and exploring viewing from different vantage points. I thought the size of the giant ghosts was a distinct difference between what could happen in a live in-person performance.”

- Actors Theatre audience member

A Christmas Carol: A Radio Play, adapted by Actors Theatre Literary Director Amy Wegener and produced with award-winning radio producer Dan Gediman, was streamed online by **50 listeners**, and also broadcast on 89.3 WFPL in partnership with Louisville Public Media.

A paper and presentation about our transmedia *A Christmas Carol* explorations called “A Tale of Two Productions: *A Christmas Carol* on Stage and in Virtual Reality” –written by David Gochfeld, award-winning XR creator and Research Fellow at the University of York– was selected for the SIGGRAPH 2022 conference on computer graphics and interactive techniques! The conference in Vancouver included speakers from Meta, Pixar, Stanford University and more. The paper will be published in a special issue of the *PACMCGIT Journal*.



Performer Ari Tarr, who played Scrooge in virtual reality, in the early stages of *A Christmas Carol: Scrooge's Ghost Encounter*.



Gregory Maupin as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol: Ghost Story*. Photo by Jonathan Roberts.



Louisville Sessions

Music is one of Kentucky's greatest and most accessible forms of storytelling. *Louisville Sessions* is Actors Theatre's popular online series celebrating the vast sound, feel, and artistry of Kentucky's dynamic music scene, and our first live, in-person concert featuring these artists, *Louisville Sessions Full Jam*, was held at the Paul Owen Production Studio in August 2021.

Louisville Sessions has added five new sessions to the ten released the previous year. The series continues to elevate extraordinary intersectional talent from our region with FAIF, R&B artist and mental health advocate; Asly Toro, Venezuelan singer-songwriter; Daniel Whit, Cuban performer rooted in Christian music and opera; Trip J Band, our youngest featured artists to date at 14, 13, and 10; and Cicily, a Louisville-born touring performer who is turning her attention to writing and producing her solo work. The sessions have over **3,700 views** so far and remain available through the Member Library.



Tez of 2Deep performs at the *Louisville Sessions Full Jam*. Photo by Danielle Marshall.





Christina Acosta Robinson and Ken Robinson in rehearsal for *Still Ready*. Photo by Philip Allgeier.

Still Ready Journey from screen to stage

Still Ready, created and performed by Ken Robinson and Christina Acosta Robinson, blends Ken's inspired original songs and Christina's evocative artwork and spoken word poetry, celebrating faith, family, and the joy of expansive Black and Afro-Latina artistry. Originally commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville as part of the 2021 Humana Festival Virtual Exhibition of New Work and Emergent Technologies, the first iteration of the piece took the form of a three-part musical docuseries recorded remotely.

The digital piece was popular, receiving over **500 views**, and the intimate, uplifting storytelling begged to be experienced live and in-person. The in-person production, presented in the Bingham Theater, offered an opportunity to continue to develop the writing with a new song and poem, and to hone the performances. In the tradition of the best cabaret shows, the program left room for improvisation and the couple continued to learn new things about each other all the way through closing night. Almost every audience member asked where they could get the soundtrack!



“Black people need to see this play because we don’t see IT enough. When’s the last time I saw just a play about Black love and nothing else? There’s no murder, there’s no violence. I appreciated seeing that because it’s not in the movies, it’s not on stage. It’s always something painful. But Black love does not always have to be painful.”

- Author and activist Hannah L. Drake, speaking about *Still Ready*

INTERSECTION OF ART & WELLNESS

Art heals on an individual and communal scale. From art therapy in hospitals to creative outlets for imprisoned populations to collective grieving through sharing stories, quantitative and qualitative data support the essential nature of the arts for our personal and public health. Actors Theatre leverages our expertise in art-based practices to support the full flourishing of our communities through productions, programs, and partnerships at the intersection of art and wellness.

Every Brilliant Thing

After over a year of social isolation and disconnection, *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe offered an antidote as a live performance co-created between an expert storyteller and members of the audience who brought their own perspectives.


“The play was simultaneously hilarious and devastating, absolutely transformed by superb acting.”

– Actors Theatre audience member

“I loved the performance!! And keep thinking of brilliant things in my world as I’m walking through life, enjoying many more things now.”

– Actors Theatre audience member

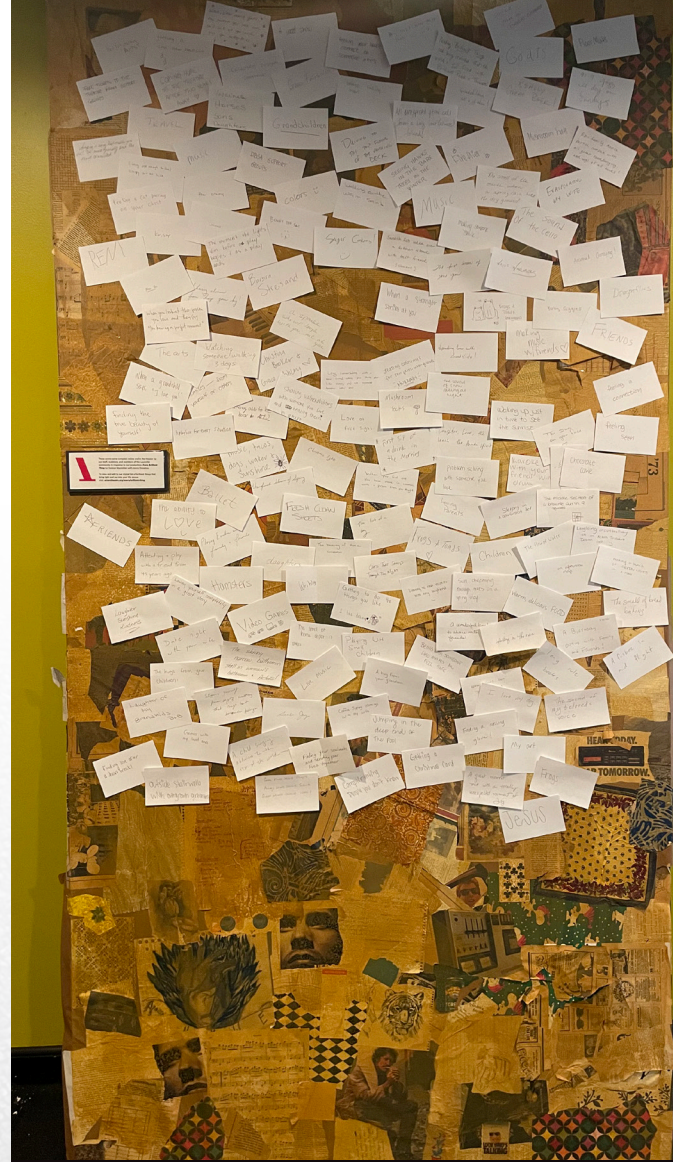
AS THE CENTRAL CHARACTER NAVIGATES THEIR MOTHER’S DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS, THEY FIND HOPE THROUGH GENERATING A LIST OF BRILLIANT THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE WORTH LIVING. IN ADDITION TO THE ON-STAGE LIST, ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE INVITED OUR COMMUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE IDEAS TO OUR OWN LIST ONLINE AND IN THE LOBBY. OVER 500 BRILLIANT THINGS HAVE BEEN LISTED SO FAR!



Jon Norman Schneider as the storyteller in *Every Brilliant Thing*. Photo by Denisha McCauley.

NAMI Louisville Mental Health Partnership

Our production of *Every Brilliant Thing* grappled with the highs and lows of despair and joy in our lives as humans, and dealt openly with depression, mental illness, and suicide – key issues facing Kentuckians, especially teenagers. We recognize that the stories don't end when you leave the theatre, so it was critical to ensure that the artists, staff, and guests had access to resources they could use if ever confronting a mental health crisis. The Actors Theatre of Louisville team partnered with the Louisville chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness to provide a list of local and national resources online and in the lobby. Additionally, NAMI Louisville Executive Director Nancy Brooks spoke to the cast and creative team to support the storytelling and their personal well-being. Finally, Actors Theatre and NAMI Louisville worked together to curate an *Unscripted* conversation about suicide prevention, mental health, and the intersection of mental healthcare, social identity, and the arts with speakers from Minority Mental Health Project, the *Two Nuts in a Pod* podcast, Seven Counties Services, Spalding University, and MindFest. Our partnership with NAMI Louisville continues with Actors Theatre of Louisville making a commitment to be a "Stigma-Free Workplace," and serving as a vendor at the 2022 Step Forward for Mental Health Walk.



Every Brilliant Thing installation located in the halls of Actors Theatre.

Seeing a really good
play and thinking for
a moment that the world
might be okay

The Clinic/MindFest

Actors Theatre of Louisville partnered with choreographer, nurse, and activist Tara Rynders and *The Clinic* to offer an in-person resiliency workshop as a part of the first annual MindFest (pictured right), hosted at Roots 101 African-American Museum. MindFest is a free community mind strengthening event advocating for mental health through art, professional services, and community outreach. The workshop offered in collaboration with *The Clinic* gave participants an opportunity to reflect, connect, and release through movement, visual arts, and poetry. Participants ranged from seven to seventy years old, and even included a Cardinals mascot! And at the end of the workshop, one participant shared, “I’m leaving behind insecurities and I’m taking with me new friends.”



Actors Theatre of Louisville Supports School Nurses

In partnership with the Kentucky Nurses Action Coalition, Actors Theatre generated high-quality theatrical training materials for the School Nurses to BARN (Bringing Action Right Now) Camp for the Mental Health and Wellness of Kentucky Youth, a three-part training session with the overarching goal to help prevent youth suicide.

According to the Kentucky 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 15% of Kentucky high school students (1 in 7) reported having seriously considered suicide within a 12-month period. In addition, 17.4% of Kentucky middle school students (nearly 1 in 5) reported that they had seriously considered killing themselves at some point in their lives. School systems serve as the foundation for health and well-being for many youth at risk, providing meals and social support. School nurses are critical team members and must have the required skills to identify and promote healthy social, emotional and behavioral development to help prevent youth suicide. Yet, the training for school nurses is not standardized and is often lacking in areas related to mental health and wellness.

Actors Theatre commissioned playwrights Keith McGill and Jane B. Jones to write 6 virtual training sessions using objective structured clinical exams (OSCEs) based on real case scenarios, performed by 7 professional actors. Using these video sessions for interactive learning, the BARN Camp promoted resilience, raised awareness, and advanced self-confidence for **100 school nurses** to effectively intervene with school aged youth (K1–K12) with behavioral and mental health concerns.



Jessica Wortham



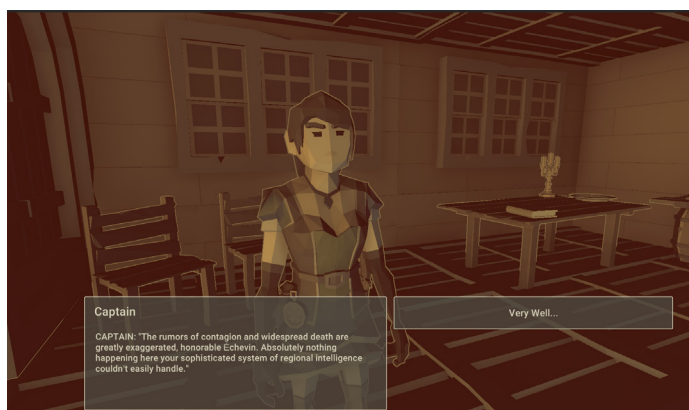
LaShondra Hood and Futaba Shioda



Ashley Cabrera



In collaboration with Louisville’s Two Scoop Games, we released two chapters of a video game, *Plague Doctor: Contagion 430 BCE - 2020 AD*. Set during pivotal epidemics that changed history, chapter 1 explores Athens, 430 B.C. | TYPHUS and chapter 2 portrays Marseilles, 1720 | BUBONIC PLAGUE. *Plague Doctor* is a first-person narrative adventure PC game about greed, compassion, and courage in times of crisis. Chapters 3 and 4 (Philadelphia, 1918 | SPANISH FLU and Louisville, 2020 | COVID-19) are in development for future release.



“A short and sweet retelling of different pandemics through time... I enjoyed the descriptions of the diseases and what they were doing to people, and I liked seeing history played out in front of me.”
– *Plague Doctor* game player

Sustaining Our Spaces

In order to ensure that our physical space is safe and healthy for our artists, staff, and guests, Actors Theatre of Louisville committed significant funds to deferred maintenance needs.

Our HVAC systems were decades out of date, and in order to operate during a viral pandemic, it was critical to invest in new air handling systems with top-notch filtration.

Bingham Theater - \$159,998 (completed to enable reopening in December 2021)



Pamela Brown Auditorium - \$417,135 (completed and reopened in October 2022)

The parking garage owned by Actors Theatre is our primary revenue-generating real estate asset. Necessary structural repairs are underway, at **an estimated cost of \$688,000.**

Our teams stayed responsive to the ever-changing public health realities, and worked to ensure the integrity of the shared artistic experience while mitigating health risks.

“The theatre staff did an excellent job ensuring COVID-19 safety policies were followed and made the space feel safe. What a joy it was to be back at Actors Theatre!”

- Actors Theatre guest



CROSS-CULTURAL COALITION-BUILDING

Actors Theatre is a public forum for the exchange of ideas. Our goal is to create nutritious spaces for humans from disparate life experiences to exchange sustainable strategies for mutual thriving.

Unscripted

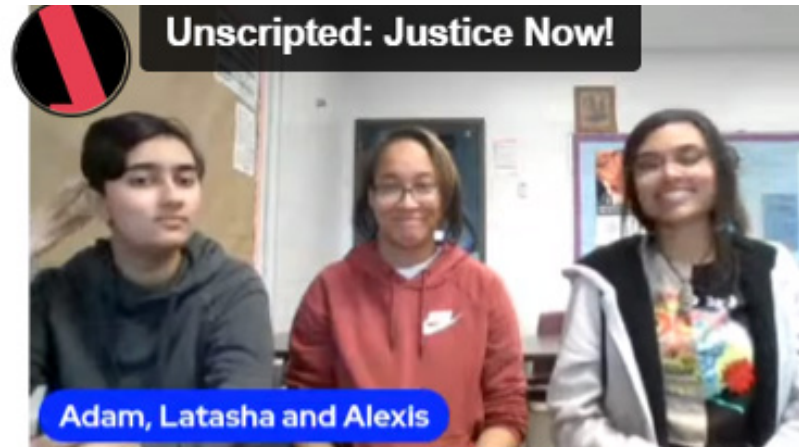
Our series of live, candid virtual discussions with community members tackled timely topics such as mental health and suicide prevention, redlined neighborhood clean-up, and student activism through creative engagement. The *Unscripted* episodes have over **10,000 views** so far and remain available through the Member Library.

Community Conversation

In conjunction with the production of *Still Ready*, we hosted *Black Love as Liberation: A Community Conversation*. The event was moderated by Dr. Kaila Story, and the panel included author and activist Hannah L. Drake, TAUNT founder Minda Honey, University of Louisville Pan-African Studies scholar Dr. Brandon McCormack, Grace James Academy of Excellence Cultural Humility Coach Shashray McCormack, and *Still Ready* creator and performer Ken Robinson. The illustrious group held an intersectional and galvanizing discussion around the questions, “Why is it important and necessary for us to bear witness to different forms of love?” and “How is Black love specifically liberatory and revolutionary?”

“Our violence is not the threat. Our love is the threat.”

— Ken Robinson



Screenshot from *Unscripted* featuring Justice Now!



Black Love as Liberation: A Community Conversation.
Photo by Amelia Acosta Powell.

“It’s because I love this city, this state, this country that I keep fighting for it.”

— Hannah L. Drake



Southern Fried Poetry Slam at Actors Theatre. Photo by Ben Gierhart.

Southern Fried Poetry Slam

Actors Theatre of Louisville was honored to host the finals of the Southern Fried Poetry Slam, one of the largest spoken word and performance poetry tournaments in the world. The mutually beneficial venue rental, initiated by artistic collaborators Lance G. Newman II and SteVon Edwards, activated the lobby spaces with local vendors as well as the Bingham Theater, where over **325 attendees** from all over the country cheered for the top national talent.

Borrowed Wisdom

Actors Theatre's podcast hosted by Executive Artistic Director Robert Barry Fleming features guest experts from a diverse range of fields talking about what we can learn from one another with a spirit of openness. With over **2,700 plays**, the podcast has listeners in **17 countries!**

When I Read my Daughter Rudyard Kipling

New episodes of the heartwarming animated series by Manik Choksi deepen the exploration of Kipling's *Just So Stories* and of a father-daughter relationship.



LEARNING & CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT

Actors Theatre of Louisville cultivates life-long learners. Invigorated by the belief that art-based tools set young people up for success in all areas of life, our Learning and Creative Engagement initiatives offer various points of entry in school, on stage, and online.

THREADS OF OUR HISTORY: Where We Intertwine

Born of a partnership between Actors Theatre of Louisville's Learning and Creative Engagement team and Justice Now, a learning hub of Jefferson County Public Schools, *THREADS OF OUR HISTORY: Where We Intertwine* explored the social justice past and present of Louisville, KY through the lens of one family and those intertwined with it across multiple generations. Seventeen student actors performed the series of vignettes, each written by a different student or group of students focusing on an array of topics: from race-based oppression and protest, to ableism, to mental health, to the LGBTQ+ community and adoption, to generational trauma and healing. More than fifty JCPS students contributed to the production, and in addition to Justice Now, the project was created in partnership with Roots 101 African-American Museum, AMPED, and the Kentucky Historical Society.



Students in *THREADS OF OUR HISTORY: Where We Intertwine*. Photo by Denisha McCauley.



Students in *THREADS OF OUR HISTORY: Where We Intertwine*. Photo by Denisha McCauley.

“I was interested in the topic and wanted to support JCPS students, but I NEVER EXPECTED the performance that I saw. This was absolutely amazing!!!... This play is such a treasure and should be presented over and over again to teach the history that was lived in Louisville but not taught in the classroom...Thank you for this gift to our city.”

– Actors Theatre audience member



Students experiencing *Ali Summit* through virtual reality headsets. Photo by Amelia Acosta Powell.

Residencies

Word Play: Dream it. Write it. Perform it. Students bring unique characters and student-written scenes to life in this classroom playwriting residency for grades 3–5. Combining creative writing with acting exercises, this experience inspires students to express their naturally creative selves in a celebration of reading, writing, and imagination. The Word Play residency served **153 students** at 2 schools.

New Voices: In this classroom playwriting residency for high schoolers, an Actors Theatre of Louisville teaching artist leads students through the process of writing a ten-minute play. Students create detailed characters, make specific choices about language, conflict, and structure, and support each other through peer critique. The New Voices residency served **75 students** at 3 schools.

Ali Summit: The *Ali Summit* residency is centered around the virtual project of the same name, written by Idris Goodwin and inspired by the 1967 summit of prominent Black athletes who met to question Muhammad Ali about his conscientious objection to military service. The students explore Muhammad Ali's life and legend, and write pieces in various styles about themselves as legends. Classes focus on movement (krumping), monologues,

spoken word, and poetry. The *Ali Summit* residency served **190 students** at 4 schools. In May 2022, Actors Theatre of Louisville also partnered with Doss High School to pilot the integration of *Ali Summit* in VR into the residency program.

Teacher Testimonial

“When I first spoke to my students about *The Ali Summit*, the response was less than what I thought it would be. And now they are using his quotes, floating like a butterfly, and stinging like a bee all throughout our halls. Seeing this growth is beautiful. I have videos of the kids Krump dancing and reciting Gwendolyn Brooks’ poem “We Real Cool.” At the beginning of this year, I would have never thought this was possible with our bunch. The packaging of *The Ali Summit* has made all the difference...Thank you Erica Denise and Actors Theatre of Louisville for providing *The Ali Summit*. On behalf of Westport Middle School, we wholeheartedly thank you for taking the time out to teach our students about the many contributions Muhammed Ali the boxer, the humanitarian, the education advocate, was able to accomplish from right here in dear old Louisville, Kentucky.”

— Jason Lewis, Westport Middle School

ADDITIONAL ACCOLADES

Romeo & Juliet: Louisville 2020

Romeo & Juliet: Louisville 2020 was featured in the *Texas Theatre Journal* (Volume 18): “The story of Romeo and Juliet reminds us that with all of the tools we have, with all of the power and money and influence, we cannot escape ourselves and the world we live in. As the global epidemic continues, and theatres struggle to survive, some institutions are searching for solutions to the destruction wrought by the pandemics of COVID-19, and racism. With a project like *Romeo & Juliet: Louisville 2020*, ATL demonstrates that a phoenix can rise from the ashes.”

The Breasts of Tiresias

The Breasts of Tiresias, a vivid animated short within the *COVID-Classics* collection that was translated and adapted by Executive Artistic Director Robert Barry Fleming and created in collaboration with animator Yehudah Jai Husband, won Best Animated Short at the New Orleans Second Line Film Festival. It was also an official selection of the 2021 ARFF Barcelona//International Awards, Black Film Festival Atlanta, Paris Lift-Off Film Festival, Rome Independent Prisma Awards, and the Divine Queer Film Festival.

The Yellow Wallpaper

The Yellow Wallpaper, Actors Theatre of Louisville’s short film based on the story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, was selected for the New Orleans Second Line Film Festival, and Tarah Flanagan received the award for Best Actress.

Finding Black Boy Joy

Finding Black Boy Joy, a spoken word exploration by Lance G. Newman II spanning politics, love, introspections of race, class and masculinity, received the 2022 Arts-Louisville award for Best Virtual Production.



Where the Mountain Meets the Sea

Where the Mountain Meets the Sea by Jeff Augustin, with music by the Bengsons, had its New York premiere in Fall 2022 at Manhattan Theatre Club. The play was commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville and received its world premiere as part of the 2020 Humana Festival of New American Plays.

The SDCF Lloyd Richards New Futures Residency

Actors Theatre of Louisville is thrilled to have been selected from a national pool of applicants as the host theatre for The Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF) Lloyd Richards New Futures Residency. The year-long residency for mid-career BIPOC directors and choreographers interested in artistic leadership is named for a legendary leader of the American theater, Lloyd Richards, who was the first Black director to be nominated for a Tony Award for *A Raisin in the Sun*, Dean of the Yale School of Drama, and the leader of the O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference for three decades. Host theatres are chosen based on the Artistic Director's commitment to the evolution of their theatre and its impact on both the local community and the overall industry. Executive Artistic Director Robert Barry Fleming will serve as the mentor to the Lloyd Richards New Futures Resident Artist, who will be selected through a rigorous application process by an SDCF committee and key Actors Theatre of Louisville staff.



Allan K. Washington and Shaun Bengson in *Where the Mountain Meets the Sea*. Photo by Jonathan Roberts.

Grace

This new musical with music and lyrics by Nolan Williams, Jr., book by Nolan Williams, Jr. and Nikkole Salter, directed and choreographed by Executive Artistic Director Robert Barry Fleming, received its world premiere at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. in March, 2022. The piece was workshopped at Actors Theatre of Louisville in January and March 2020, but the premiere production was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The creative team and many of the cast members reconvened on the East Coast to continue the development of the "mouth-watering dish of family and community served up with super-charged music and vocals." (*Broadway World*)



Director of Learning and Creative Engagement Erica Denise was awarded the 2022 Barbara Cullen Theatre Educator Award by Arts-Louisville.



ACTORS

THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Thank You



**JOIN THE STORYTELLING (R)EVOLUTION
BY BECOMING A MEMBER!**

**Learn more about Actors Theatre of Louisville at
ActorsTheatre.org.**



You Tube



@Actors Theatre of Louisville

@ATLouisville

@actorstheatre

