

A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP WITH SHAKESPEARE FOR STUDENTS

Chicago Shakespeare Theater believes that theater is for everyone and can transform lives. At a time when arts and education funding is being challenged, CST serves more students and teachers than any theater in Chicago. These programs support the development of young people’s crucial skills, including social-emotional competencies, critical literacy, and meaningful collaboration in classrooms and in life. No matter where an individual is on their learning journey, CST fosters a space to explore, absorb, create, and build community through our lifelong learning programs.

83% of students attending a student matinee experienced Shakespeare live for the first time

18,000+ students and teachers, a 43% increase from last season

40 student matinees offered at deeply subsidized rate

473 teachers engaged **22** schools participated in SLAM

“In our digital world, it’s critical for young people to explore their creativity and build their capacity for empathy, understanding, and a broader perspective.”

—**Nora Carroll**, Director of Lifelong Learning & Education
Ray and Judy McCaskey Education Chair

HEAR FROM A CPS TEACHER

“I can teach Shakespeare all I want...put it up on its feet in the classroom, but until my students see it in the theater, it’s not real to them. It’s getting harder and harder to have field trips. A lot of schools don’t have the budget. This year with the bus scholarship, we were able to get one bus picked up by the theater. It was such a relief. My kids get to come to almost all the shows and that’s only because the theater makes it affordable.”



—**Robin Russo**
Teacher at Steinmetz College Prep
Scan QR Code to hear from Robin

1,500 students received subsidized transportation to matinee performances through our bus scholarships

46 educators attended a free teacher workshop

12 were selected to participate in Bard Core, an intensive training program to enhance classroom teaching techniques for getting Shakespeare on its feet in classrooms

12 Pre-Ambles and **23** post-show discussions were offered to audiences to further engage with the work they see on stage

60 attendees joined us to immerse themselves in the behind-the-scenes elements of making theater through backstage tours or technical workshops

