SHAKESPEARE AT THE CENTER

There's nothing quite like experiencing Shakespeare's stories live on stage. Larger-than-life characters, the epic stakes of battles and betrayals, love's fiery passion, and the sharpest turn of wit expressed through some of the most beautiful poetry ever written. **As the nation's largest year-round theater dedicated to the work of the Bard, we keep Shakespeare at the center of our mission.** We are proud that our 2025/26 Season featured more performances written by or inspired by Shakespeare than any in the last decade.

At CST, you can see Shakespeare's plays fully realized with a scale and scope unlike anywhere else: large companies of actors led by best-in-class directors, hundreds of bespoke costumes and design elements, and an authentic commitment to elevating the humanity and artistry of the work onstage. We treat Shakespeare as a modern writer for our modern times—not only relevant, but revolutionary. His work challenges us to face the complexities of our human experience and inspires us to revel in the wonder of our world.



54% of performances this season
were written by or inspired by Shakespeare

25% of attendees to Shakespeare plays were new to CST

Large casts of exceptional Chicago actors bring Shakespeare to life in full scale

- The Merry Wives of Windsor: **25 actors**
- Much Ado About Nothing: **22 actors**
- Rome Sweet Rome: **15 actors**
- Short Shakespeare! Hamlet: **11 actors**





2025/26 SEASON
PRODUCTIONS WRITTEN BY OR INSPIRED BY SHAKESPEARE

Shakes in the City:
A Midsummer Night's Dream

Rome Sweet Rome
Inspired by Julius Caesar

Much Ado About Nothing

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Suzy Eddie Izzard
Talks Shakespeare N'Stuff [Forsooth]

One Knight Only! Sir Ian McKellen
Onstage with Gandalf, Shakespeare, and YOU!

Short Shakespeare! Hamlet

The Royal Shakespeare Company and Neal Street Productions'
Hamnet