During the 2018-2019 Season, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company performed for over 44,000 audience members and 3,000 students, in Boston and Wellesley.

160 total cast and crew presented 56 performances and readings.
A female driven production, *Universe Rushing Apart: Blue Kettle and Here We Go* kicked off CSC's 2018-2019 Season. These two one-act plays explored the themes of mistaken identity, memory, and mortality, and featured a predominately female cast and design team. With stellar performances by Siobhan Carroll, Maureen Keiller, Karen MacDonald, Sarah Mass, and Ryan Winkles, and award-winning direction by Bryn Boice, this production was a fan and critic favorite.

**By the Numbers**
- 5 actors
- 10 performances
- 10 creative team members
- 400 audience members

"""Tender and exhilarating""
-WBUR 90.9 FM's The ARTery

Elliot Norton Award:
Outstanding Director, Large Theater: Bryn Boice

Best of Theater 2018 list
The ARTery, WBUR

Top 10 Choice for 2018 Theatre
The Boston Globe

Audience Favorite Choice and “Standing O” Recognition*
though Stage Source

*For championing the work of female, trans-gender, queer, and non-normative gender identities.

Photos by Evgenia Eliseeva
In partnership with Google and WGBH, and produced by Graham Sack and Quentin Little, CSC expanded the reach of Shakespeare with *Hamlet 360: Thy Father’s Spirit* in January 2019. This 60 minute, cinematic, 360-degree adaptation explores new dimensions of the medium by casting the viewer as the Ghost of Hamlet’s dead father, giving the viewer a sense of agency and urgency as an omniscient observer, guide and participant. Featuring Brooke Adams, Jack Cuttmore-Scott, Anthony Rapp, Jay O. Sanders and Faran Tahir.

**By the Numbers**

- Over 38,000 views on YouTube

Featured in:
- The New York Times
- The Boston Globe
- American Theatre Magazine
- Metrowest Daily News
- Babson Thought and Action
- Jared Bowen on WGBH.org
- WACH, Columbia, North Carolina
- Engadget.com
- Openculture.com
- PC World
- Worldwide press in Brazil, Korea, and Germany

“Although you watch it on a screen, ”Hamlet 360” feels in many ways more like theater than cinema.”

-Elizabeth A. Harris, *The New York Times*

"It felt more as if I'd been catapulted into a movie or a play, or as if I was seeing it in my mind's eye."

-Don Aucoin, *The Boston Globe*
Focusing on the trials and ties of friendship, *Birdy* featured Maxim Chumov and Spencer Hamp as the younger versions of "Al" and "Birdy" chronicling their lives from teenagers in Philadelphia to adults reeling from war-time trauma in Kentucky where their older versions were played by Keith White and Will Taylor. Steven Barkimer, and Damon Singletary completed this stellar cast.

**By the Numbers**

- 7 actors
- 13 performances
- 13 creative team members
- 900 audience members

“Steven Maler’s intimate, poetic, and beautifully realized Commonwealth Shakespeare Company production of “Birdy” underscores what makes this drama so stirring: its illustration that, as with love, there can be a mysterious chemistry to friendship, a force of attraction not comprehensible to anyone standing outside that circle of two.”

-Don Aucoin, *The Boston Globe*
Guests were welcomed into a whimsical garden to celebrate CSC’s 11th Annual Gala and invited to look forward to the summer’s production of *Cymbeline*. The evening featured a guest performance by Tony winning stage and film actor **Brian Dennehy**, and a musical piece from the summer’s production of *Cymbeline* featuring cast member **Tom Gleadow**.

**By the Numbers**
- Over $200,000 raised
- 200+ guests

*Photos by Chris Anderson*
This year's Shakespeare and the Law program explored belief and the burden of proof through the lens of six Shakespeare plays: Cymbeline, Hamlet, Henry IV Part 1, Julius Caesar, Measure for Measure, and Othello. Following a staged reading of brief scenes from each play, judges, prosecutors, attorneys, activists, and commentators debated how allegations of impropriety should be measured and judged in the courtroom, the workplace, on college campuses, and in congressional hearings.

By the Numbers

- 4 actors/creative team
- 2 guest panelists
- 10 panelists including 6 judges
- 175 audience members

Participants:

- Judith A. Cowin, former Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
- Timothy Hillman, United States District Judge, Massachusetts
- Jeff Jacoby, columnist for The Boston Globe
- Daniel J. Kelly, Partner of McCarter & English LLP
- Andrew Lelling, U.S. Attorney, District of Massachusetts
- Joan Lukey, Partner at Choate Hall & Stewart LLP
- Judge George O'Toole, U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts
- Patti B. Saris, Chief Judge of the United States District Court, Massachusetts
- F. Dennis Saylor IV, Judge of the United States District Court, Massachusetts
- Douglas P. Woodlock, Judge of the United States District Court, Massachusetts

Special Guest Panelists: Samantha Harris, Vice President for Procedural Advocacy for the Foundation for Individual Rights (FIRE), and Wendy Kammer, author, lawyer, and social critic.

By the Numbers

- 1 community performance
- 8 student matinees
- 10 creative team members
- 12 actors
- 3,233 students and educators

Stage2: Romeo & Juliet
May 23 – June 4, 2019
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Adam Sanders

Students and educators from across Eastern Massachusetts were treated to 8 nearly sold-out matinée performances of Romeo & Juliet, culminating in a community performance on May 31, 2019. This production was produced as part of CSC’s Stage2 series, which provides the opportunity for students and their teachers to attend high-quality live theatre created with young audiences in mind.

Performed by the CSC2 Company, a group of young professional actors in residency with CSC, these performances bring together the next generation of actors with the next generation theater goers.

Audience Reaction

“Many students told me that they did not expect that this would be better than the movie...but it was! It was a great time and opportunity also for these students to get out into a beautiful space like Babson College, and to see that there is life outside of Lawrence.”
-Mary DeFelice, Lawrence High School

Photos by Nile Hawver
By the Numbers

- 6 community performances
- 8 weeks of training
- 10 creative team members
- 32 actors
- Over 700 audience members

Apprentice Program
June - August, 2019

This summer, 32 young actors participated in CSC’s Apprentice Program – an intensive summer training program for pre-professional actors who are actively pursuing a career in theatre.

Participants received weekly classes in voice, monologues, and scene work and performed in abridged productions of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *All’s Well That Ends Well* at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Additionally, Apprentices enthusiastically served as the front of house ambassadors for *Shakespeare on the Common*, engaging the audience through the pre-curtain “green-shows.”

Apprentice Quotes:

“My time at CSC was an absolute dream. The support shown by everyone around me helped to elevate me as an actor, an artist, and a human! I got to play Helena in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and I even went on as an understudy, making my Equity debut with *Cymbeline*.”

-Molly Minter, 2019 Apprentice Alumni

“The CSC team, from teachers, coaches, and even the actors on the main stage were always there to lend an attentive hand to help me along the way. The family bond here is so strong that it is impossible to fall through the cracks, and instead, you may feel the village elevate you as a whole!”

-Alcides Brito Costa, 2019 Apprentice Alumni

Photos by Evgenia Eliseeva
Free Shakespeare on the Common presented Shakespeare’s lovely mystical dramedy *Cymbeline* chronicling the fates of King Cymbeline and his family through a journey of deception, intrigue, and separation. Featuring Nora Eshenheimer as Imogen, one of Shakespeare’s most beloved heroines, audiences were swept into a nearly mythic realm of mistaken identities, twists and turns, and the all-consuming quest for true love.

**By the Numbers**
- 18 performances
- 24 actors
- 32 apprentices
- 45 artistic and production team
- Over 130 audience members using accessibility services
- 140+ volunteers
- Over 42,000 audience members

"The mightily tried princess is feistily played by Nora Eschenheimer, who, even when the character sickens and swoons or weeps bitter tears, leaves no doubt that Imogen is not to be tampered with."

- Carolyn Clay, *The ARTery*

"Nora Eschenheimer delivers such a fiery performance as the princess that there's no mistaking Imogen's wit, spirit, and resilience."

- Don Aucoin, *The Boston Globe*

“Spirited and dripping with wit,” says Jared, “this ‘Cymbeline’ has us revel in the power of the princess.”

- Jared Bowen, *WGBH*

"CSC always seems to do something unexpected; “Cymbeline” is no exception. With this being their 24th year, it is exciting to think about what their silver anniversary next year will bring."

- Clinton Campbell, *Edge Media*

**Audience Reaction:**
“The play was the thing. It went from engaging to riveting causing a hush over the audience that was otherworldly. We were left breathless. My guests were overwhelmed with the entire experience; just the quality of the audience and all the young children that were enthralled made for a confirmation that we are in the best of times.”

“The acting was superb, the director magnificent, the lighting, sets, and costumes captivating! Keep the quality high and I will be happy! Thank you so much for a truly outstanding production!”

“Thanks for doing this every year! It’s such an amazing summer tradition”
About CSC

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC) is dedicated to artistic excellence, accessibility, and education. We present plays of the highest artistic caliber that celebrate ideas and language to create dialogue around compelling issues of our time. We eliminate barriers—physical, economic, and cultural—to bring live theater to audiences throughout Greater Boston. We cultivate in young artists the value of community engagement, and collaborate with educators to bring literature to life in the classroom. Best known for our annual free performances on Boston Common, CSC also presents several free play-reading events during the year including Shakespeare & Law, and Shakespeare & Leadership. The company fulfills our educational mission with training programs for both pre-professional actors through our Apprentice Program and early-career actors through Stage 2.

History: Free Shakespeare on the Common

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company presents professional productions of Shakespeare to Boston audiences during the summer months when local theatre companies tend to be on hiatus from their regular seasons, but when there are record numbers of people in the city. Now celebrating its 25th Anniversary season, CSC’s Free Shakespeare on the Common has become an annual Boston tradition, modeled along the lines of “Shakespeare in the Park” in Central Park and the many other free outdoor summer Shakespeare events throughout the country.

CSC Stage 2 Series

Established in 2014, CSC2 is a young, diverse company of non-Equity early-career actors, with some professional experience, working with CSC on an extended basis. As both a distinct ensemble focused on peer learning, and alongside the professional actors and artists of the main-stage company, CSC2 performs in a variety of productions throughout their time with the company.

CSC Apprentice Program

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company’s Apprentice Program is an intensive summer training program for young actors who are actively pursuing a career in theatre. The program culminates in two professionally designed productions of Shakespeare plays.

Photos by Andrew Brilliant, Evgenia Eliseeva, and Nile Hauser