

WHO **WE** ARE: OUR STORY



**“We players forges a new era of arts in the park.”
- San Francisco Chronicle**

PSYCHOPOMP at McLaren Park, 2021

OUR MISSION

We Players is the San Francisco Bay Area's premiere site-specific theatre company. Founded in 2000, this unique non-profit creates stunning productions that are intimate and interactive - stimulating all of the senses through dynamic in-situ staging. Projects take place in national, state, and municipal parks, drawing thousands of diverse young people and adults from all backgrounds to these beautiful sites each year - many for the very first time.

We Players productions have received local and national recognition for their groundbreaking approach. These one-of-a-kind shows get audience members on their feet as they follow the performers through the park, exploring the landscape and connecting to the physical environment through impeccable design, superb acting, and thought-provoking adaptations of classical texts.

We Players presents site-integrated performance events that transform public spaces into realms of participatory theater. We bring communities together, reclaiming local spaces for public discourse and civic celebration through art. Extending the transformative powers of performance beyond the stage, we invite our collaborators and audience to engage fully and awaken to the spectacular world around us.



Romeo and Juliet at Petaluma Adobe, 2016

OUR PROCESS

"The best immersive theater in the nation."
- Adrian Benepe,
President of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

We Players began working in partnership with the National Park Service in 2008, pioneering a model that leverages public treasures in new and meaningful ways. Over the past two decades we have created 27 shows in 17 parks. Since 2010 we've brought 7 visual art exhibits to 3 National Parks, plus 7 music concerts and 10 specialty programs. These vital works of live and innovative performance expand the mind, strengthen the heart, and connect us with our shared humanity. With your support, We Players will continue to create transformative art in historic sites surrounded by nature's majesty.

Our unprecedented partnerships with parks include:

- A 5-year cooperative agreement with San Francisco National Historical Maritime Museum, the first of its kind in the nation.
- An inaugural artist residency on Alcatraz, a 3-year tenure that included our production of *Hamlet* which received national coverage in the NY times, HuffPost, and MSNBC and launched a visual arts program on Alcatraz, paving the way for international artists like Ai Weiwei.



CAESAR MAXIMUS at the Music Concourse, 2018

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



"*Mother Lear* captures the intense fears surrounding dementia, the disintegration of relationships and the resilience of human beings and our capacity for love. For this reason, this work is desperately needed to help dismantle the stigma and aloneness that people living with dementia and their caregivers experience."

- Dawn Gross, Associate Clinical Professor at UCSF's Palliative Care Service

"I wish I could make *Mother Lear* required in medical centers, retirement communities and progressive art venues nationwide."

- Pegi Walker, UCSF Chaplain

In 3 years of touring *Mother Lear*, our 2-woman adaptation of *King Lear* focusing on the care of elders with dementia, we have developed a strong connection with the local community of care providers and end of life experts in service of those living with dementia. We have prioritized subsidized performances for these communities.

Offering educational opportunities to students with limited arts access has been part of our efforts from our incorporation as a non-profit.

- Our Aesthetic Education Program served nearly 300 students from Abraham Lincoln High School, Castilleja School, and San Rafael High School.
- The English Department at City College plans curricula each year around our season and assigns our performances as part of coursework.
- We performed 4 student matinees of our *Romeo and Juliet* at Montalvo Arts Center for 500 5th-12th graders from the greater San Jose area. This was the first live performance for many students.



Romeo and Juliet at Montalvo Arts Center, 2016

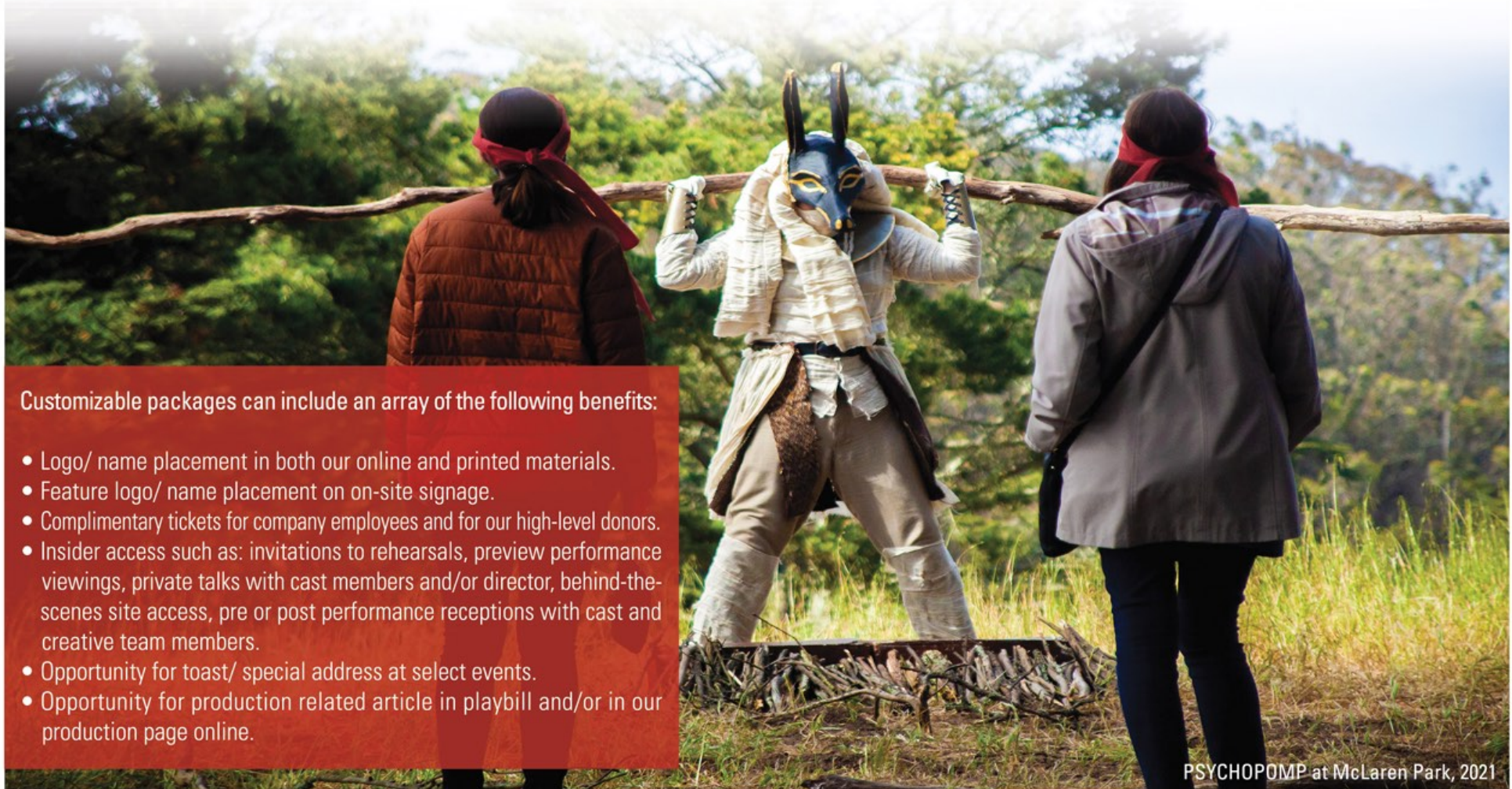
Sponsorship Opportunities & Benefits

We Players can provide you with a sponsorship package that meets your needs.

Partnering with We Players is a smart investment. All sponsorship levels offer significant access not only to theater-goers and donors, but also to our robust network of nonprofit, business, and government sector collaborators. Underwriters can choose from a variety of flexible, customized sponsorship packages, each with its own set of benefits.

For businesses and high-level individual supporters we offer opportunities for exclusive access to our artists and their creative process.

As one of the Bay Area's premier cultural institutions, We Players can leverage its press exposure and audience engagement to celebrate your name and/or logo visibility in the region. **Be known as a champion of arts and culture!**



Customizable packages can include an array of the following benefits:

- Logo/ name placement in both our online and printed materials.
- Feature logo/ name placement on on-site signage.
- Complimentary tickets for company employees and for our high-level donors.
- Insider access such as: invitations to rehearsals, preview performance viewings, private talks with cast members and/or director, behind-the-scenes site access, pre or post performance receptions with cast and creative team members.
- Opportunity for toast/ special address at select events.
- Opportunity for production related article in playbill and/or in our production page online.

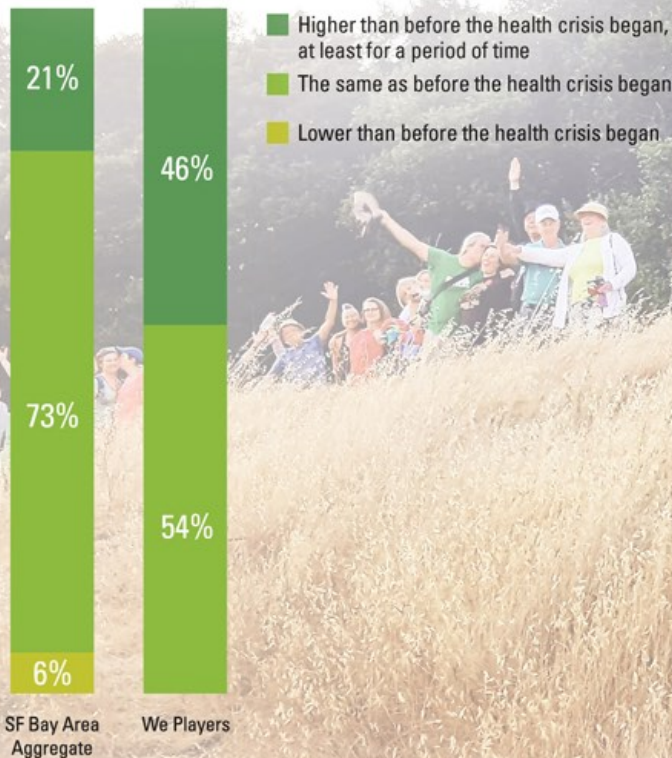
OUR REACH

Since 2010 We Players has reached over 30,000 audience participants and countless passers-by who have had the opportunity to experience what we do. With 70% of first time visitors returning to a park site after seeing a production, our work is significant in encouraging an awareness of and care for civic spaces. Having contracted over 660 artists at competitive pay rates, we are proud to be a financial supporter of local talent.

According to a 2020 national survey by WolfBrown studying post-COVID arts sentiments, We Players audiences are more eager to return to our performances than the Bay Area aggregate, and more likely to increase their support via donations.

How eager are you to return to attending performances?

When arts & cultural programming in your community resumes and you feel comfortable going out again, do you anticipate your donations will be...



"We Players culture is engaging, thoughtfully evocative, immersive; simultaneously welcoming and unsettling; intent on expanding horizons, developing awareness of place and theme."
- Amy Brees, former Alcatraz Site Supervisor

"We feel that the transformative power of the type of site-integrated theatre, for which We Players is renowned, provides park visitors with experiences that create appreciation and respect for San Francisco's public lands."
- Diane Rea, SF County Clerk

AUDIENCE IMPACT

"This was one of the best sunday afternoons spent in my life (I am 71 years old)."
- *Ondine* Audience Member

"The use of the space was phenomenal, the acting was superb, everything that was done made the play more alive, more understandable, more natural than I've seen before. I never expect to see *Macbeth* played more richly than you folks did, and same goes for this play!"

- CAESAR MAXIMUS audience member

"Everyone in SF should run to go see We Players' performance at the Palace of Fine Arts. It's an immersive, space-specific production, movement and sound focused, all-female cast, original work, and simply incredible. I will continue to be inspired by this for many years to come. Brava!"

- *Roman Women* audience member



COLLABORATORS



montalvo
ARTS CENTER

CCo1

inkBoat



ROVA
SAXOPHONE
QUARTET

NAKED EMPIRE
BOUFFON COMPANY

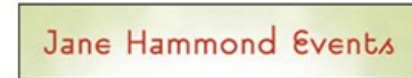
"The performance was magical. One of the most unique and special theater (or park) experiences I have ever had. Thank you for introducing us to a whole new way of experiencing the elements in that spectacular setting. Thank you for opening our minds and hearts to what the Parks have to offer!"

- Phil Ginsburg, General Manager of San Francisco Recreation and Parks

Roman Women at The Palace of Fine Arts, 2018

SUPPORTERS

We are committed to keeping both our ticket prices affordable and our performances extraordinary. To do this, we need to supplement our box office income through sponsorship and individual giving. We Players offers special thanks and appreciation to these heroes that help make our work possible!



Midsummer of Love on Strawberry Hill, Golden Gate Park, 2017

UPCOMING SEASON

In 2022 We Players will present a suite of new works exploring ways in which we can transform isolation into independence and take comfort in custom. Travel with us from distant shores to much closer coasts, discovering the secrets of self along the way.

Season Launch Picnic

Our annual spring celebration and season kickoff! Join We Players for an elegant and joyful picnic at Golden Gate Park's famous Rose Garden. Featuring the delectable creations of culinary artist Frieda de Lackner, the afternoon will be spiced throughout with music and performance.

The Keeper

A one-woman show about a lighthouse keeper on an island in limbo. How do we tend the light and tend to ourselves? What does it take to keep the light burning all through the darkest hours? This world premiere will be staged at Alameda Point aboard TuDu, our new magical mobile performance wagon.

See Clown

A story of self-love. See Clown take a walk. See Clown go to bed. See Clown see Clown. Our next adventure in the new-to-We realm of film!

Sites & Sounds

Music concert en plein aire, featuring an all star band playing Music Director Charlie Gurke's compositions. 2022 marks a decade since our massive production *The Odyssey* on Angel Island as well as our *Twelfth Night* aboard the historic ships at Hyde Street Pier. Tune in to the original music scores from these productions - and stay tuned for the album release!



PSYCHOPOMP at McLaren Park, 2021

PRODUCTION HISTORY

- 2023 - *Adventures with Alice* at Golden Gate Park
- 2023 - *Adventures with Alice* at Montalvo Arts Center
- 2023 - *The Keeper* at Cal Shakes
- 2022 - *The Keeper* at Alameda Point
- 2022 - *Mother Lear* at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden
- 2021 - PSYCHOPOMP at McLaren Park
- 2019 - *Mother Lear*
- 2019 - *Undiscovered Country* at the Sunnyside Conservatory
- 2018 - *Mother Lear*
- 2018 - CAESAR MAXIMUS at The Music Concourse
- 2018 - *Roman Women* at The Palace of Fine Arts
- 2017 - *Mother Lear*
- 2017 - *Midsummer of Love* at Strawberry Hill, GGP
- 2017 - *Midsummer of Love* at Kennedy Grove, EBRP
- 2017 - BEOWULF at SF Maritime & Fort Mason
- 2016 - *Romeo and Juliet* at Petaluma Adobe
- 2016 - *Romeo and Juliet* at Montalvo Arts Center
- 2016 - The Capulet Ball at Castello di Amorosa
- 2015 - HEROMONSTER at Fort Mason Center Chapel
- 2015 - *Ondine* at Sutro
- 2014 - *King Fool*
- 2014 - *Macbeth* at Fort Point
- 2013 - *Macbeth* at Fort Point
- 2012 - *The Odyssey* on Angel Island State Park
- 2012 - *Twelfth Night* at Hyde Street Pier
- 2011 - *The Odyssey* on Alma
- 2011 - Alcatraz Symposium on Justice & Freedom
- 2010 - *Hamlet* on Alcatraz
- 2009 - *Iphigenia & Other Daughters* on Alcatraz
- 2008 - *Macbeth* at Fort Point
- 2006 - *The Tempest* at The Albany Bulb

Early productions at Stanford University

- 2000 - *Romeo & Juliet*
- 2001 - *Hamlet*
- 2002 - *Portrait of a Fool*
- 2002 - *Twelfth Night (or What You Will)*
- 2003 - *Jabberwocky* at the Stanford Mausoleum



The Odyssey on Angel Island State Park, 2012

AS FEATURED IN...



"A company that's thoroughly mastered the art of creating site-specific and wonderfully creative and provocative environments."



"We Players see the rugged sites of their site-specific performances as scene partners, not as obstacles. Whenever a performer tells you to attend to the wind, the wind seems to rise up on cue. When another tells you to appreciate the trees, you might look up, only to see boughs waltzing with one another."



"[We Players] has taken the tradition of alfresco theater in a new and ambitious direction by using national and state parks as the stage itself. The theater group's productions transform park settings into scenes, creating theatergoing experiences that blend art, history, and landscape ... and sometimes a good bit of hiking."



"When the whales breach off-stage, or a massive migration of pelicans flies overhead, or the sunset is setting the sky ablaze at the end of a performance, or a white owl soars through a scene — these moments highlight the potential for surprise and discovery in each moment. These moments also remind the audience that this is really happening right here right now; this is a precious unrepeatable event."



"For a moment, everything seems possible: the dispatching of would-be tyrants, the power of a well-turned oratorical phrase to inspire action, and the continual evolution of the "classics" in their ability to reveal modern concerns."



"Drawing on the fundamental philosophies of 'place', 'choice' (each audience member determines his own vantage point), 'movement' (the audience follows the action throughout the space), and 'community', We Players sheds innovative light on very old works."

PSYCHOPOMP at McLaren Park, 2021



NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

THE **tba** AWARDS

celebrating excellence in
professionally oriented
theatre in the Bay Area

Awards:

- OUTSTANDING WORLD PREMIERE PLAY
Ava Roy and Nick Medina for *CAESAR MAXIMUS*, 2019
- OUTSTANDING MALE ACTOR IN A FEATURED ROLE IN A PLAY
Nathaniel Justiniano for *Ondine* at Sutro, 2015
Nick Medina for *Midsummer of Love*, 2017
- OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN
Brooke Jennings for *Ondine* at Sutro, 2015
- OUTSTANDING LIGHTING DESIGN
Allen Willner for *Beowulf*, 2017
- OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE IN A PLAY
Ava Roy and Courtney Walsh for *Mother Lear*, 2018
- OUTSTANDING ORIGINAL MUSIC SCORE
Charlie Gurke for *Macbeth* at Fort Point, 2013

Finalist Nominations for:

- OUTSTANDING DIRECTION OF A PLAY
Ava Roy and Courtney Walsh for *Mother Lear*, 2018
- OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION OF A PLAY
Mother Lear, 2018
- OUTSTANDING PROPERTIES DESIGN
Yoshi Asai for *Beowulf*, 2017
- OUTSTANDING COSTUME DESIGN
Maria Chenut for *Beowulf*, 2017
- OUTSTANDING MALE ACTOR IN A FEATURED ROLE IN A PLAY
Nick Medina for *Ondine* at Sutro, 2015
- OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE
Ondine at Sutro, 2015
- OUTSTANDING FEMALE ACTOR IN A PRINCIPAL ROLE IN A PLAY
Ava Roy for *Ondine* at Sutro, 2015
Libby Oberlin for *Romeo & Juliet*, 2016



Ondine at Sutro, 2015