



ST. LOUIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

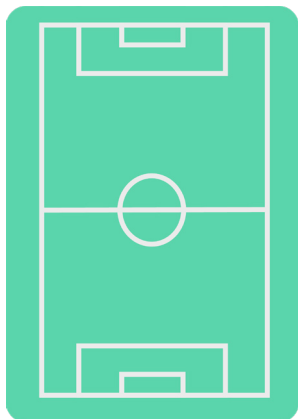
Shakespeare in the Streets

A world premiere about the history of soccer in St. Louis: community members inspire a brand new play.

We work with residents to tell their stories through an immersive, year-long community engagement theater residency. Those stories are incorporated into a new work inspired by a Shakespeare play and performed for free in the City streets.

This year's project celebrates the uniting force of soccer. Historian David Goldblatt calls soccer the "biggest cultural phenomenon the world has ever known," and it reached a new level of popularity in St. Louis with the addition of CITY SC – but our region was once known as the soccer capital of the U.S.

More than a hundred years ago, the first international games happened here in 1884, and soccer made its debut at the Olympics during the 1904 games. At the 1950 Olympics – five players from the same block on The Hill led their team to a historic win over England. Players like Tim Ream and Becky Sauerbrunn continue that legacy today as leaders of the U.S. Men and Women's national teams.



Using the universal languages of Shakespeare and soccer, this new play will explore St. Louis's long and inspiring history with this sport, its impact on the game globally and how we got to this major league culmination after almost two centuries of play.


Inspired by stories from...


- Local Olympians, World Cup Players & Hall of Famers
- SLU's Historic Soccer Programs
- Local Legend Bill McDermott
- St. Louigans
- La Liga Latina STL
- Saint Louis Roadies
- America Scores & more

"Love how this program gets us all out of our 'boxes' and into new parts of town."

"I've never seen theater presented this way. Let alone a Shakespeare adaptation centering on my own community!"

SHAKESPEARE IN THE STREETS 2023

 Written by Benjamin Hochman
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

 **SEP 14-16, 2023**
Downtown @ Intersection of
22nd & Olive