
August 2022-
July 2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:
Lauren Hensarling

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A Note From Our Executive Director

"Matthew 7:25 states, 'The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.' We long for this to be the testimony of Bright Lights Theatre. From the beginning, we sought to build this company on the Rock. We strive to make the gospel of Jesus Christ central in every program, production, and interaction. We truly believe that the art of theatre can be used to tell stories that point audiences and cast members to the truth of the one true God and His great love for them, evidenced in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

We know that 'unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain' (Psalm 127:1). We have seen evidence that God is the one building Bright Lights. The favor we have been shown over the last six years could only be attributed to His work in the hearts of people in Dallas to bring about the fruition of this ministry for His glory. We have been blessed by local churches, schools, and theaters across Dallas through gracious rental rates, many donated or borrowed technical supplies, and awarded grants. Qualified Godly individuals have been willing to labor alongside us, receiving far less compensation than they deserve because they know the value of this mission. We have been encouraged by professionals in different fields who have assisted in building the backside of this business with integrity and wisdom. Parents have seen the value in this beautiful merging of training in the arts and gospel-centered discipleship.

Our staff has labored hard in this building process, but we wholeheartedly believe that God has been behind it all. We will continue to labor, no matter what comes our way, because we know that God is the

foundation of Bright Lights Theatre. Thank you for your support over the last six years, whether you have given financially, prayed for our students, programs, and staff, registered your students in programming, labored alongside us, or simply followed along. We are so glad you are here and excited to witness together what God will do in 2024!"



Lauren Hensarling

ABOUT US

Bright Lights Theatre exists to train the next generation as masterful storytellers who share the light of Christ. We strive to make the gospel of Jesus Christ central in every program, production, and interaction. We believe that the art of theatre can be used to tell stories to point audiences and cast members to the truth of the one true God and His great love for them, evidenced in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We have had the privilege of serving families in the Dallas area for four years.



OUR VALUES

- We value Jesus Christ and work to reflect Him in our thoughts, words, and actions.
- We value a passion for the art of storytelling.
- We value a standard of excellence that cultivates mastery of the theatre arts.
- We value our shared responsibility to care for one another.
- We value the ongoing development of character traits that empower personal growth.
- We value community fueled by acceptance, encouragement, and support.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

God did so much good in and through our students this year.

The number of families we had the opportunity to serve grew substantially in the second half of the year. What a blessing to know and train these students.



Headed Out West Masterclass

Students: 19 (1st-6th grade)

Sessions: 1

Net Revenue: \$3,526.53



A Year with Frog and Toad the Musical

Students: 16 students (3rd-9th grade)

Tickets Sold: 509

Net Revenue: \$2,617.18



Annie Jr. the Musical

Students: 51 (1st-10th grade)

Tickets Sold: 1,173

Net Revenue: \$22,146.06



G.N.O.M.E. Summer Camp

Students: 293 (PreK-8th grade)

Sessions: 4

Net Revenue: \$34,930.48

FROM OUR STUDENTS



“You are the BEST directors ever! I’m really excited to be in plays with you. You direct shows really well; I can understand it! I’m so glad I took a chance on Bright Lights.”

- A 4th Grade Student

“Directors, Thank you so so much for having me as a counselor at *Wacky Woods* and as a cast member for this show (*A Year with Frog and Toad*). It has been such a blessing to be able to be a part of this and hopefully many more. I have had so much fun being a part of all this. We are all so blessed to have such wonderful directors! Thank you for all you do!!”

- A 9th Grade Student and Scholarship Recipient

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The following organizations were instrumental in achieving Bright Lights' goals:

- **Grace Bible Church** - provided rehearsal, performance, and camp space at a discounted rental rate.
- **Coram Deo Academy** - provided camp space at a discounted rental rate.
- **North Highlands Bible Church** - provided rehearsal space at a discounted rental rate.
- **Gateway Church** - sold set pieces, props, and costumes at a discounted rate.
- **Theatre Denton** - allowed us to borrow the wheelchair in Annie for free.

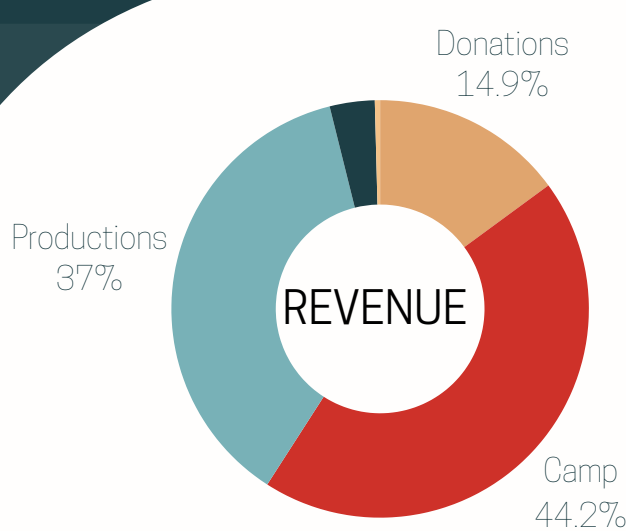
These companies served as corporate sponsors by giving financially and offering discounts on their services.



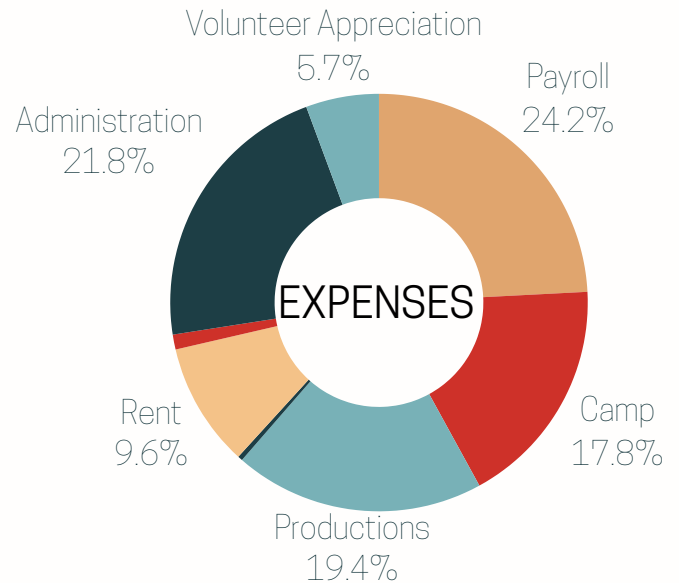
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NET REVENUE: \$32,740.45

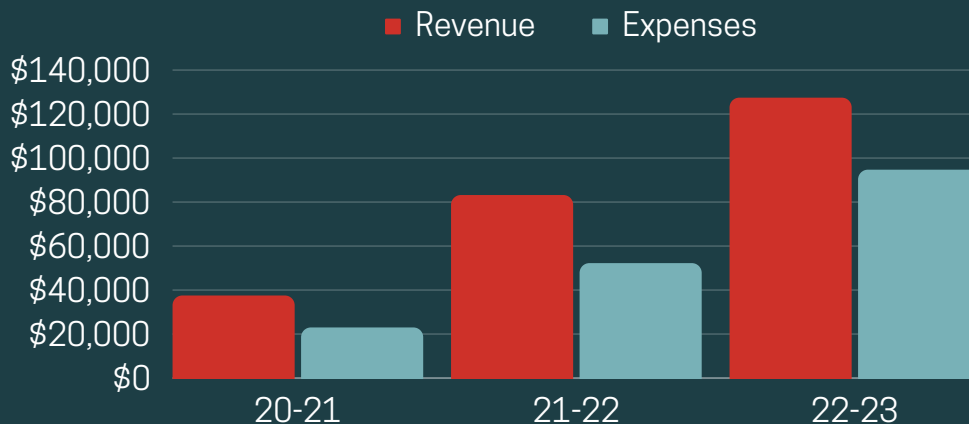
With only 15% of our revenue stemming from donations, our earned revenue covered most of our expenses. As we seek to lease our own facility, appropriately compensate our directors, bolster our scholarship fund, and increase the number of opportunities available to students, we recognize that more donations and grants will be required to accomplish these goals.



Total Revenue: \$127,458.24



Total Expenses: \$94,717.79





23-24 GOALS

As the number of families we serve continues to rise, we believe these goals will accommodate for that growth in the coming year.

01. Find Permanent Facility

Obtain a permanent Bright Lights facility for rehearsals, classes, and camps to serve our families with more consistency.

02. Expand Program Schedule

Add one session to our camp schedule, one masterclass, and double cast our Spring show. This expanded schedule will provide more opportunities for interested students to participate and hear the gospel.

03. Add Discipleship Opportunities

Implement more discipleship opportunities for our older students, such as Bible study and internships. As a result, they will be even better equipped to share the light of Christ and lead our younger students.

OUR TEAM

This year, all semester programs were handled by our three full-time/part-time employees.



Lauren Hensarling
Founder / Executive Director



Megan Karr
Founder / Artistic Director



McKenna Carr
Instructor / Director

Board of Directors:



Mary Kate Feaster
Treasurer



Allison Floczak
Camp Chair



Becca Godkin
Secretary



Blake Godkin
Core Values Advocate



Rachel Hamilton
Camp Chair



Jacob Hensarling
Set Chair



Summer Camp Staff

Every summer we get the opportunity to work with camp directors who serve as contract workers. Many of these women pictured have worked alongside us since our very first summer camp in 2021 and some were brand new this year. Each is a master at their craft. Most importantly, they all love the Lord and are passionate about sharing who He is with our students.

CONNECT WITH US

We teach our students that every single story points back to the gospel. We train them to pinpoint how their characters, and the plot as a whole, aid in that effort so they feel empowered to share the light of Christ now and in the future. We are so grateful to everyone who made this work possible this year, from donors and volunteers to prayer warriors and advocates. We hope you will continue to partner with us in training the next generation in the year to come. We can't wait to tell more stories with you.



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