



August 2025-
July 2026

ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:
Lauren Hensarling

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A Note From Our Artistic Director

Every year, as I look back, I am reminded of the unique goodness of God. He always seems to give us what we need for the season we are in, and this past year was no different. I was struck by God's faithfulness to provide beautiful moments with new students, sentimentality with students who have grown up in our ministry, and moments where God's presence was clearly seen and felt as students faced trials and loss, yet clung to their faith in a God who is always working for our good, even when it doesn't feel like it.

One of my favorite memories was watching our camp counselors lead and serve, most of whom started as campers themselves. The way they poured into our younger students testified to the formation the Lord is doing in their hearts and minds. Watching them dance the finale each week at the back of the audience brought me to tears as I remembered when they were the little ones on stage. This is the kind of leadership and discipleship that was envisioned at the onset of Bright Lights. We prayed these students would "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done." (Psalm 78:4) We were able to see that come to fruition in part this year through campers becoming counselors, counselors becoming college interns, and college interns becoming staff.

God's goodness was also shown this year as members of our community faced trials, suffering, and loss, but were sustained by God's lovingkindness and community. A moment that will stick with me forever was watching a group of Bright Lights students comfort and care for one another when hard news came to one of their families. They clung to one another, cried, and prayed for one another. Afterward, the doxology was sung. This is the song we sing after each performance to give glory and praise to God. This song took on a whole new meaning in that moment as we held one another and praised God, even with the unknown trials ahead and the heartache in that moment. What a good God we serve that he allows us to be in community with one another.



The art of excellent theatrical storytelling is *what we do* at Bright Lights, but I always pray that *who we are* remains a community steeped in faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that because of this faith, we intentionally care for one another and share who Jesus is with those who know Him and those who don't. As our students interact with theatre and the world at large, my prayer is the same: that they would bring light and life wherever they go.

Megan Karr

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 seven years.



OUR VALUES

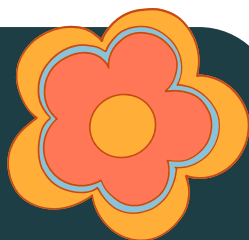
- We value Jesus Christ and work to reflect Him in our thoughts, words, and actions.
- We value a passion for the art of storytelling.
- We value a standard of excellence that cultivates mastery of the theatre arts.
- We value our shared responsibility to care for one another.
- We value the ongoing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



A YEAR IN REVIEW

We had more students than ever participate in programming and had a ton of incredible high school camp counselors. We got to know many new families and continued training students from Pre-K through 10th grade!

**Groovy Hits
Masterclass**
Students: 22
(1st-5th grade)



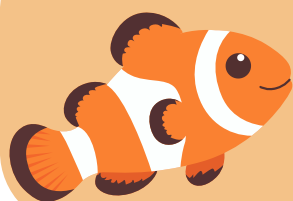
**The Sound of Music:
Youth Edition**
Students: 59
(2nd-10th grade)
Tickets Sold: 1,208



Matilda JR.
Students: 62
(2nd-10th grade)
Tickets Sold: 1,063
Performed at Granville Arts Center



Finding Nemo JR.
Students: 47
(2nd-8th grade)
Tickets Sold: 911



James and the Giant Peach JR.
Students: 40
(4th-8th grade)
Tickets Sold: 473



**A Trip to the Wacky
Woods Summer Camp**
Students: 266
(PreK-8th grade)
Sessions: 4



STORIES OF IMPACT



When our oldest daughter, Natalie, auditioned for her first show, we had no idea what Bright Lights would come to mean to our family. She started in August of 2025 with *The Sound of Music*, knowing only one friend in the cast. She loved it from the beginning and formed sweet friendships along the way. Now, in her third show, she walks into rehearsal surrounded by friends, and it truly feels like a second home to her.

Theater was not something we expected her to fall in love with, but it has become her passion. It lights her up from the inside. She loves to sing, act, and be on stage. She looks forward to every rehearsal, every chance to be with her Bright Lights friends, and definitely every performance. She has found her voice there, in every sense.

What sets this program apart is that God is at the center of everything they do. Lauren, Megan, and their team teach their students to use the gifts God has given them to honor Him. The love and care they show carry through in the way the students treat one another. They encourage each other, work together, and make everyone feel special and included.

Between the shows, camps, and classes, Bright Lights provides a place to grow in talent, friendship, and faith. For our daughter, it has been life-changing, and we recommend it to every family we know. We are beyond grateful for Lauren, Megan, and everyone who pours their heart into this very special ministry.

— **Linburg Family**



STORIES OF IMPACT

Seeing our children grow in their love for theater has been one of the many reasons we are thankful for the work of Bright Lights. We have watched them go from attentive audience members to emerging actors with a gift for telling stories that point to God's unending love in Christ. They have found joy through friendship, growth through new challenges, encouragement from kind mentors, and delight in making art that honors the Lord.



When Hans performed in *The Sound of Music*, his enthusiasm spread to his brother Boaz and sister Elowen. Boaz followed shortly after in *James and the Giant Peach* (along with his brother). Elowen is beginning her journey this fall with the Frozen masterclass. Bright Lights has been a highlight for each of our children, and we are thrilled they are a part. We are so thankful for the ministry of BLT and can't wait to see what's in store for the future.

— Goodwin Family



Bright Lights has been the sweetest blessing for our family. Since participating in shows with Bright Lights, our daughter has grown more confident in the gifts God has given her and found a place where she feels like she truly belongs. The directors really see her, and every student, and bring out the best in them. They make the students feel loved, seen, and valued- no matter the role. The highlight of her time at rehearsals is usually talking with one of the directors- she absolutely adores each of them.



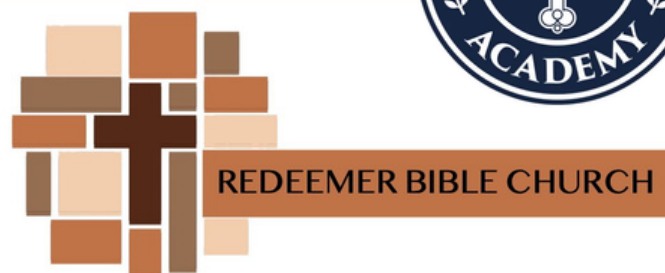
It brings me peace and comfort as a parent knowing that she is spending time in an environment that builds her up, disciples her in the way she should go, and teaches her to be a blessing to the world. She feels challenged in areas like choreography and projecting, and shows progress in developing her skills thanks to these talented directors. We are so grateful for all that they do for our students and ask that if you can give to this worthy organization, please do so!

— Hanson Family



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

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



2026 Corporate Sponsors



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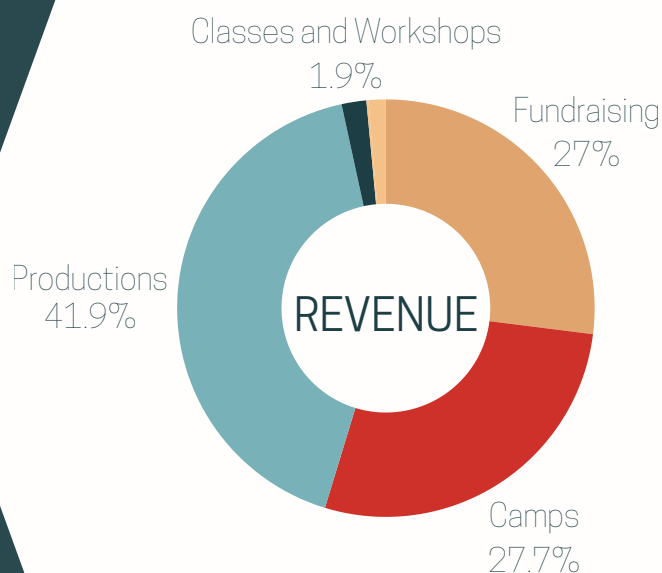
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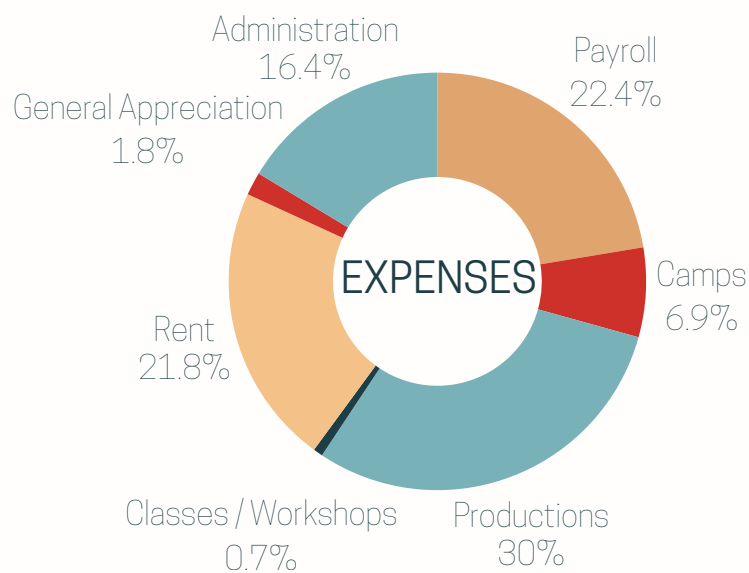
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NET REVENUE: \$43,809.10

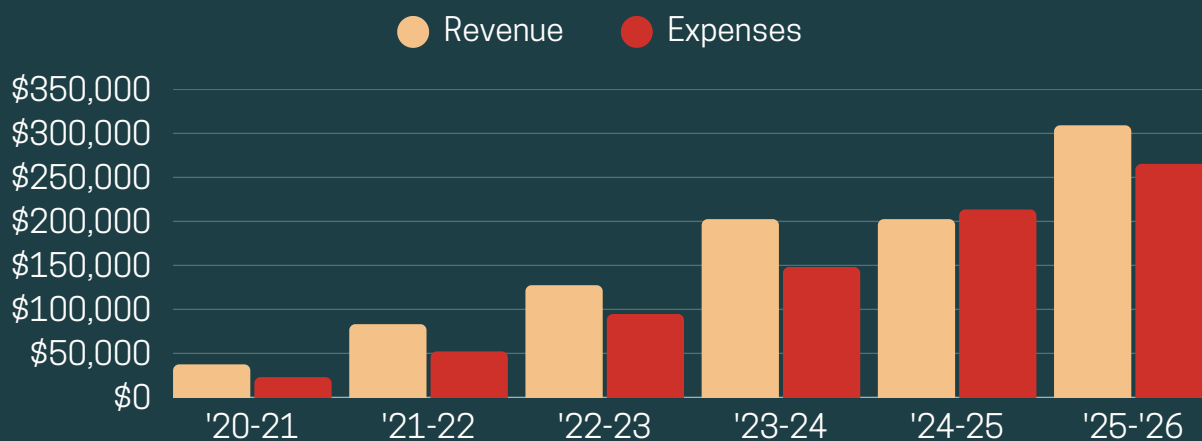
What an incredible year it has been. Through the generosity of our donors and an overwhelming interest in program participation, we ended the year with a net positive. This is such an encouraging development that our board felt comfortable approving the lease of our new headquarters. This also brings us a lot of hope for accomplishing our big goals of adding valuable programs and staff in the coming years.



Total Revenue: \$309,198.09



Total Expenses: \$265,388.99





2026- 2027 GOALS

Bright Lights Theatre has been using the performing art of theatre to share the light of Christ for seven years now. As we look toward the future of this ministry, we have some goals that will help ensure BLT can continue telling stories for decades to come.

01. Add Valuable Programming

We had major interest in our programs last year, so we plan to increase the number of programs we offer. Not only will this help us accommodate growth and include more students, but it will also give more opportunities for deeper training based on their age and stage of growth.

02. Increase Our Fundraising Goals

As we grow, expenses have continued to increase. In order to maintain reasonable tuition and ticket prices and continue hiring qualified staff, we need to increase our fundraising efforts. You will notice that we set a higher goal for our monthly donors this year, in addition to attempting to raise more scholarship dollars through North Texas Giving Day.

03. Increase Our Employee Hours

God blessed us with a large number of incredible contracted staff this past year, for which we are so grateful. To increase the number of programs we offer on our yearly calendar, we need both those amazing contractors and two full-time employees who are dedicated to the administrative work of running the company.

OUR TEAM

The Lord blessed Bright Lights with an excellent team of leaders who shared their passion for storytelling and cared well for our students. What a joy it has been to minister together!



Lauren Hensarling
Founder /
Executive Director



Megan Karr
Founder /
Artistic Director



Sarah Hargis
Lead and Musical Director /
Masterclass Instructor



Jayne Pecena
Choreographer /
Stage Manager



Mackenzie Graves
Musical Director /
Backstage Coordinator



Anya Hernandez
Choreographer



Becca Miller
Musical Director



Jessi Fraccaro
Musical Director



Ashley Bass
Backstage Coordinator



Vivian Langdon
Backstage Coordinator



Parker Knight
Masterclass Instructor /
Jr. Camp Director



MD Christian
Choreographer

2025-2026 Board of Directors:



Kent Kirkman
President



Allison Floczak
Member / Stage Manager /
Camp Director



Becca Godkin
Secretary



Gina Hamada
Member



Mary Kate Feaster
Treasurer



Kevin Timmons
Member



Rachel Hamilton
Core Values Advocate /
Camp Musical Director

Summer Interns:



Victoria Carroll
Summer Intern



Meghan Lahey
Summer Intern and
Stage Manager



Tate Arnold
Summer Intern and
Backstage Coordinator



Megan Timmons
Summer Intern and
Front of House Manager

Additional Summer Staff:



Bailey Scribner
Junior Camp Director



Amy Rico
Technical Director



Hannah Hensley
Coordinator



Hannah Pearson
Technical Director



Kenna King
Musical Director

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 and for you.



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