

August 2024-
July 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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Lauren Hensarling

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A Note From Our Executive Director

Six years of Bright Lights Theatre have included five classes, ten shows, sixteen weeks of camp, a multitude of workshops, hundreds of students, and thousands of audience members. God has been faithful to help us make such a big impact in such a short amount of time. As I reflect on the past six years and think about all God has done in and through this ministry, I am blown away by how our students have grown in their ability to see the truth in every story about who God is and what He has done. This year in particular, our students were so quick to articulate the gospel truths that they saw in their characters and the stories at large. It was encouraging to hear them process how the story they are portraying can teach or affect themselves and their audience. That's the whole point.

Training in the art of theatre and storytelling is important. It teaches transferable skills that will serve our students for the rest of their lives, whether they continue in the theatre world or not. But without our focus on gospel fluency, Bright Lights would just be another children's theatre. There isn't anything wrong with that, but it isn't our calling. Megan and I, in particular, have always felt called to integrate theatre and theology. The hope is to use theatre as a means for sharing the gospel. This was, after all, one of the primary methods that Jesus Christ himself used to teach about the Kingdom of God. Jesus told parable after parable (short stories with real life examples) to make Kingdom truth more understandable for those who had ears to hear. He was the Master Storyteller, and we long for our students to reflect the image of Jesus by masterfully telling stories that share those same truths.



Thinking about how much our students have grown, physically, spiritually, in maturity, and in their skills, brings me to tears (although, I admit, that isn't hard to do). I am honored to have been a small part of their discipleship and am eager to see how God continues to use Bright Lights to impact families in the Dallas metroplex. Thank you to those who have sacrificed your time, talents, and finances to support this ministry from the beginning. We couldn't do this work without you!

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 six 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 were able to substantially increase the number of programs we offered this year, adding two full productions to our season. We got to know many new families and continued training students new and old!

CLASS/CAMP



**Once Upon a Time
Masterclass**
Students: 20
(1st-5th grade)

**The Lion King
Masterclass**
Students: 13
(1st-5th grade)



**Heroes Vs. Villains
Summer Camp**
Students: 191
(PreK-8th grade)
Sessions: 3

PRODUCTIONS

**The Wizard of Oz:
Youth Edition**
Students: 43 (2nd-10th grade)
Tickets Sold: 1,055

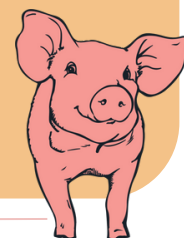


**You're a Good Man,
Charlie Brown**
Students: 17
(5th-8th grade)
Tickets Sold: 515



Seussical Jr.
Students: 48
(2nd-11th grade)
Tickets Sold: 819

Charlotte's Web: The Musical
Students: 34
(4th-9th grade)
Tickets Sold: 572



STORIES OF IMPACT



To put into words what Bright Lights has been to us is hard to describe, but let me try my best. Our oldest daughter, Presley, started Bright Lights with *Annie* in the Spring of 2023. She found a love for theater. She is naturally shy and reserved, but Bright Lights opened her up not only to finding her voice on stage but also to discovering courage and confidence in who God created her to be. Shortly after, our younger daughter Aubrey begged us to get her involved as well.

From the moment they joined, Lauren and Megan welcomed them with such warmth and encouragement. They have poured into my daughters' lives in ways that go far beyond theater. Their Christ-like example, wisdom, and faithfulness have been an inspiration. Through their leadership, Presley and Aubrey have grown spiritually, learning to use their gifts to glorify the Lord while also building friendships that are rooted in faith.

As parents, it has been such a blessing to watch both girls step out of their comfort zones and thrive in this environment. They have learned discipline, teamwork, and perseverance, all while being reminded that their identity and worth are found in Christ. Lauren and Megan model this truth so beautifully, showing the students that theater is not just about performance but about telling stories that shine God's light and bring Him glory.

Bright Lights has truly been life-changing for our girls and for our family. They have grown in their relationship with the Lord, developed confidence on stage, and found joy in using their talents to honor Him. We are so thankful for Lauren and Megan and the incredible program they have created. They are role models in every sense of the word, and we are deeply grateful that our daughters get to be a part of something so special.

— **Bass Family**



STORIES OF IMPACT

Bright Lights Theatre is truly a “bright light” for our family. Our daughter has always loved performing, but as Christian parents, we weren’t sure where she could grow in her talent and also learn to share it in godly ways. We thank God often for Lauren and Megan because of their faith-focused approach to the musical stories they direct and the quality of their instruction and performances.

Piper’s first show was *Junie B. Jones*, and she has been in almost every show, masterclass, and camp ever since. She has learned how to be comfortable on stage, and that confidence has extended into other areas of her life. She has learned how to work through the disappointment of not getting the part she wanted, as well as how to graciously receive a lead role. She has connected with friends from different schools and different grade levels who have the same passion to perform that she has. We strongly encourage supporting this ministry financially if you can, because they truly offer “bright light” and future hope for kids wanting to pursue performing in a darkened industry.

— **Gorrod Family**



Bright Lights is more than just a children’s theater. It’s a Christ-centered place where young performers are truly seen, valued, and encouraged to share their gifts. I’m so thankful that my children’s theater experience has been in such a welcoming and supportive environment. Since joining Bright Lights, my daughter has blossomed in ways I could only hope for. She has grown in her performance skills, but even more importantly, she has gained confidence, friendships, and a deep love for theater. Every rehearsal has nurtured her talents while reminding her that she is a child of God and everything she does should be done for God’s glory.

After seeing his sister’s positive experience, my son decided to give theater a try. I was so pleased to see his love of the arts grow, and for him to be challenged to step out of his comfort zone in a safe space. He felt such a sense of belonging in the cast of *Seussical*. Through Bright Lights, my children have discovered that theater is a powerful way to share the gospel. Thank you to the directors for pouring their hearts and souls into creating such a special place! Our family has already benefited from the fruit of your labor!

— **Dillon Family**



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

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

Redeemer Bible Church — Provided rehearsal and performance space at a discounted rental rate and made significant upgrades to their facility to better serve Bright Lights' needs.

Grace Bible Church — Provided rehearsal and camp space at a discounted rental rate.

2025 CORPORATE SPONSORS



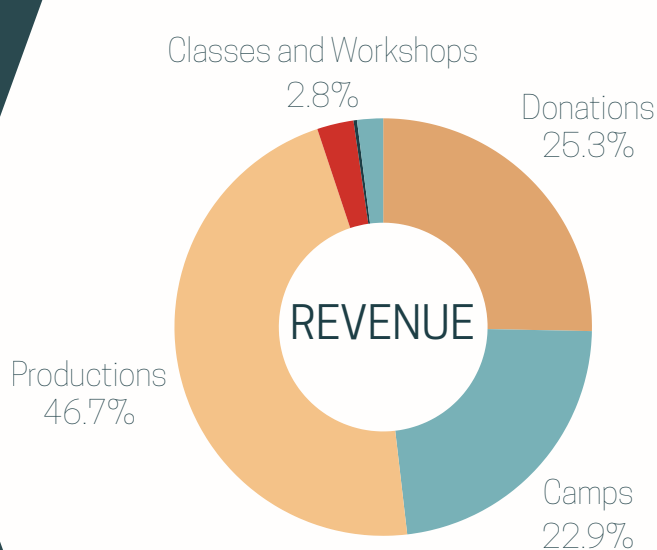
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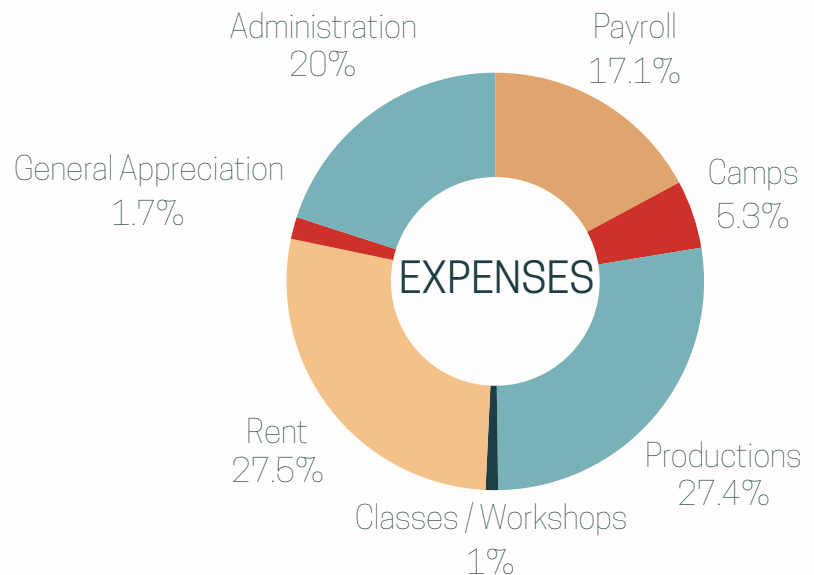
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NET REVENUE: **-\$10,329.43**

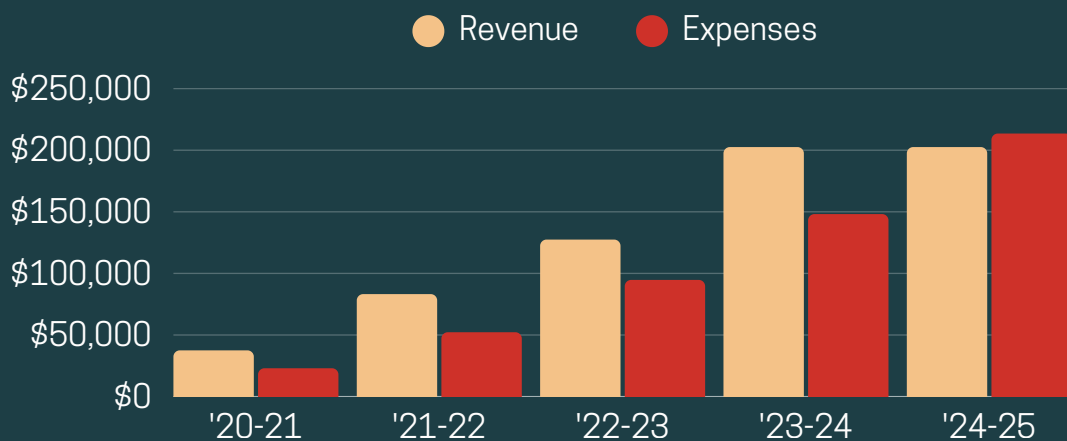
We were encouraged to see a significant increase in our donations this fiscal year. Nevertheless, you will notice that, for the first time, our total expenses outweighed our total revenue. The cost of supplies, rent, and licenses has only increased over the last few years, despite the generosity of our church partners and many in-kind donations of needed supplies. You can see our goals for stewarding our revenue well into the future on the next page.



Total Revenue: **\$203,202.68**



Total Expenses: **\$213,538.11**





2025- 2026 GOALS

Bright Lights Theatre has been using the performing art of theatre to share the light of Christ for six 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. Regulate the Budget

In order to provide sustainability for the future of Bright Lights Theatre, we are having our budget professionally analyzed to find a sustainable balance between our earned revenue, expenses, and fundraising goals.

02. Increase Our Fundraising Goals

As we grow, expenses have continued to increase. In order to maintain our lower-than-average tuition and ticket prices, we need to increase our fundraising efforts. You will notice we set a higher goal for North Texas Giving Day and monthly donors this year.

03. Train New Staff Members

Many of our regular seasonal staff are going through life transitions that will keep them from directing this year. This gives us an opportunity to welcome new staff members into the BLT family and focus on training them to confidently integrate and articulate gospel truths into their directing.

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



McKenna Carr
Choreographer / SM /
Masterclass Instructor



Courtney Harper
Choreographer /
Masterclass Instructor



Sarah Hargis
Musical Director



Lucy Allen
Musical Director



Christy Troia
Musical Director



Ashley Bass
Backstage Coordinator



Tate Arnold
Backstage Coordinator

Board of Directors:



Kent Kirkman
President



Allison Floczak
Member / Camp
Assistant Director



Becca Godkin
Secretary /
Camp Coordinator



Gina Hamada
Member



Mary Kate Feaster
Treasurer



Kevin Timmons
Member



Rachel Hamilton
Core Values Advocate /
Camp Musical Director

Additional Summer Camp Staff:



Amy Rico
Technical Director



Valene Hanson
Technical Director



Parker Knight
Technical Director



Bailey Scribner
Junior Camp Director /
Coordinator



Megan Timmons
Junior Camp AD



Jessi Fraccaro
Musical Director



Hannah Fisher
Assistant 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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