



1958 In CSF's early years, the outdoor stage was covered in grass. "It was constantly soaking wet," says cast member Richard Bell. "Every morning I drove to a lumber yard in Longmont, got a bucket of sawdust and spread it across the grass so people wouldn't trip." But it didn't always help: One night, two dancers

instructed to run offstage during a performance went slipping and sliding.

1966

"That was the year that we attacked the English department," says Ed Stafford, then the festival's fencing master. "[During *Coriolanus*, we had a] flight of lances thrown offstage, which ended up going through the windows of the English office."



1974

Ricky Weiser became the first woman to direct a performance in the Rippon with her *Timon of Athens*.

1975 With a production of *Cymbeline*, CSF completed Shakespeare's entire 37-play canon. "To the best of our knowledge," writes Ricky Weiser, "this is the first time that an American festival has [given] each play, even the less well-known, a full round of repertory performances."



In the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, tickets were \$1.50, actors were mostly unpaid, and the budget was less than \$10,000. Sixty seasons later, it's still the same institution with a professional cast.

This is the story of America's second oldest



estival's inaugural season, tickets
paid students and the budget was
ater, CSF is a nationally recognized
and an award-winning reputation.

ond-oldest Shakespeare festival.

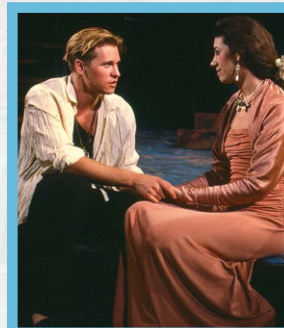


1980 The headline-stealer would prove to be Annette Bening, then just 22. The future film star played the Princess of France in *Love's Labour's Lost*.



1982 In its 25th season, CSF refused to play by the rules. A startling and popular production of *Macbeth* tackled the difficult subject of alcoholism, dressed Lady Macbeth in slinky, sensual gowns and featured three topless witches.

1988 When CSF cast *Top Gun* star Val Kilmer in the title role of Hamlet, ticket sales soared. At the end of that season, the festival walked away with the Denver Drama Critics Circle's "Best Season For A Company" prize.



1992 On the heels of several exceptional seasons, *TIME* named CSF one of the top Shakespeare festivals in the nation. The Denver Drama Critics Circle also awarded the festival its coveted "Best Season for A Company" prize.

2007 CSF's 50th season broke new artistic ground by hiring a fully professional cast of actors, including a cohort of six Actors' Equity Association members, for the first time. Multiple national publications named Boulder a top town for the arts,



citing CSF as a major draw.