

MUSEUM THEATER

> *Theater makes history come to life right before our eyes.*



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Above: Nation Builder the Marquis de Lafayette, portrayed by Mark Schneider, performs on the Charlton Stage.

Right: Scene from the play, *Good Progress* at the Hennage Auditorium. Here, Actor Interpreter Hope Wright portrays Elizabeth DeRosario, a free Black woman.

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Theater is a crucial component in Colonial Williamsburg's role as the largest American history museum. From the Charlton Stage to the Play House Stage to the Hennage Auditorium and beyond, these areas offer a unique space to explore the complex history of our nation by presenting inspiring, complicated and innovative programming that brings history to life.

Colonial Williamsburg's nationally recognized theater programming provides an opportunity to experience the lives of those in the 18th century and make authentic connections to our society today through inventive mediums. Interacting with interpreters and walking the streets of the Historic Area are integral parts of the guest experience, and theater programming is a way to take that total immersion one step further by presenting more in-depth stories of how people lived, interacted and survived in the 18th century. These connections and learning experiences are central to achieving our education and civic engagement campaign goals.

Theater mirrors the past, present and future of

our world. It makes history come alive right before our eyes, giving audiences a chance to connect with the past and draw comparisons to our own modern lives. It helps us understand people from cultures and time periods other than our own by displaying the similarities and differences of their lives to how we live today. Our challenge now is continuing to produce, enhance and expand our theater programs to ensure all 18th-century stories are represented to their fullest capacity.

We are seeking investments to support the people who bring these experiences to life — our talented and dedicated actors, leads, writers, directors and supervisors. We also aim to secure funding to preserve our unique theater venues, including the Charlton Stage, Play House Stage and the Palace Stage as well as the props, costumes and equipment that create these scenes for our guests.

Your support of our programming and iconic performance venues is critical to our ability to engage and inspire our guests. With your involvement and generosity, our theater programming can greatly advance our educational mission, *That the future may learn from the past.*

