



MUSICAL THEATER

Formerly Youth Musical Theater Company (YMTC)

## 2023–24 IMPACT REPORT

### Our students



### Our programs



### Our finances



### Our community



## FROM the ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As we look back to our 19th season, I am blown away by the leaps we took and what we accomplished:

- We **remounted a new musical** written for our students by award-winning playwright Krista Knight and composer Dave Malloy.
- We **produced our second Alumni Project (formerly YMTC+)**, *Fun Home*, directed by alum Jacob Basri.
- We held our **most successful gala to date**, which along with our *Together We Grow* campaign **raised close to \$175,000** (triple what we made in the previous year).
- We completed a **rebranding project** that culminated in a **new name: Korsá Musical Theater**.

Wow. **We did all of this because of the profoundly generous and unflinching support from you:** our incredible community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In the coming year, we are on the brink of some incredible growth as a company:

- We have a line-up of **four distinctly awesome shows** at four distinctly awesome venues.
- We are partnering with the City of Berkeley **to take over the management of Live Oak Theater**, enabling us to grow our Apprenticeship Programs
- We are launching our **first-ever middle school production** (grades 6-8), featuring all the training and adventure of our classic productions on a slightly smaller scale.
- We are **calling for Korsá alumni to propose productions** for the next Alumni Project in 2025-26

We head into our 20th anniversary season stronger than ever, ready for any challenges we might face, and thrilled to greet the next twenty years of theater-making with our students, our teaching artists, and you.

With immense gratitude,

# KORSA by the NUMBERS

- 🎷 51 pit orchestra musicians
- 👕 77 souvenir production sweatshirts purchased
- 🎨 81 teaching and technical theater artists employed
- 👏 85 minutes of standing ovations
- 🙋 108 volunteer hands raised
- 🎓 112 students trained
- 🎵 202 hopeful auditioners
- 🍽️ 450 tech week meals served
- 🕒 860 hours spent in rehearsal
- 🍪 1,149 famous Korsa brownies eaten at intermission
- 😍 4,765 audience members enthralled

## IMPACT STORY: alum & teaching artist

### JACOB BASRI

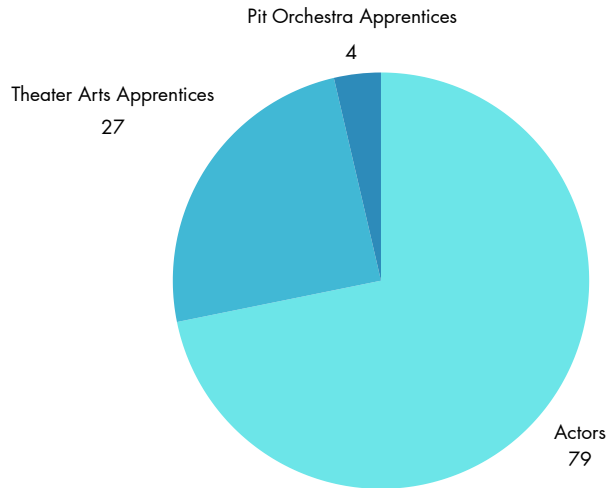


I am a proud Korsa alum and a recent graduate of the Yale School of Drama's MFA Directing program. I recently had the pleasure of returning to direct the company's production of *Fun Home* and was reminded of what a truly extraordinary place it is. Korsa teaches theater, but they also teach their students life lessons: to be forever curious, creative, empathetic, brave, focused, kind, and resilient, to remain awake in their lives, to seek joy through collaboration, and to embrace and express their whole selves.





# OUR STUDENTS



**Total student actors and apprentices: 112**

Part of our commitment to deep, professional-level training is an **excellent student-to-teacher ratio**, which remained incredibly low this year. This ensures that each student gets **individualized, hands-on training** from the professional theater artists at Korsa and helps explain our unique quality and positive student experience.

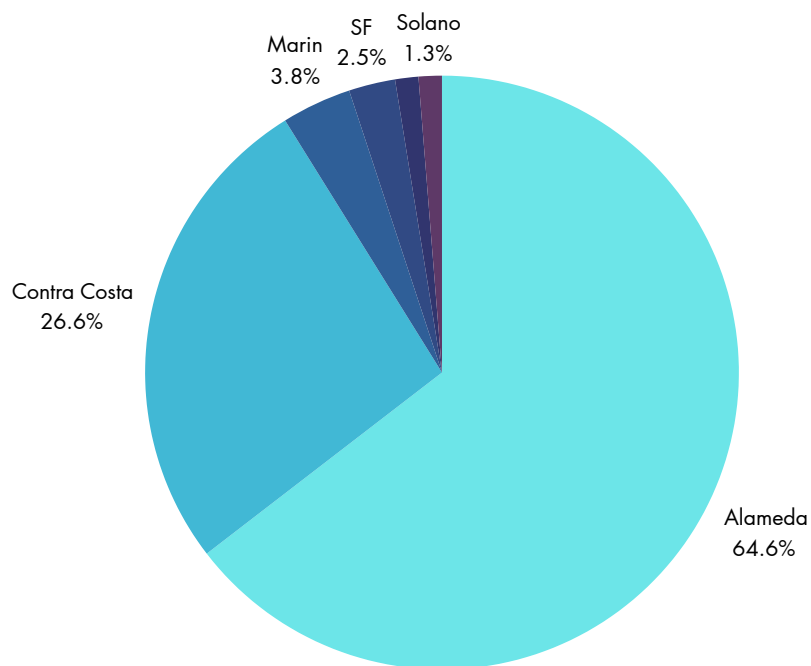
*Little Shop of Horrors*: 1.5 students for every teaching artist

*Don't Stop Me*: 2 students for every teaching artist

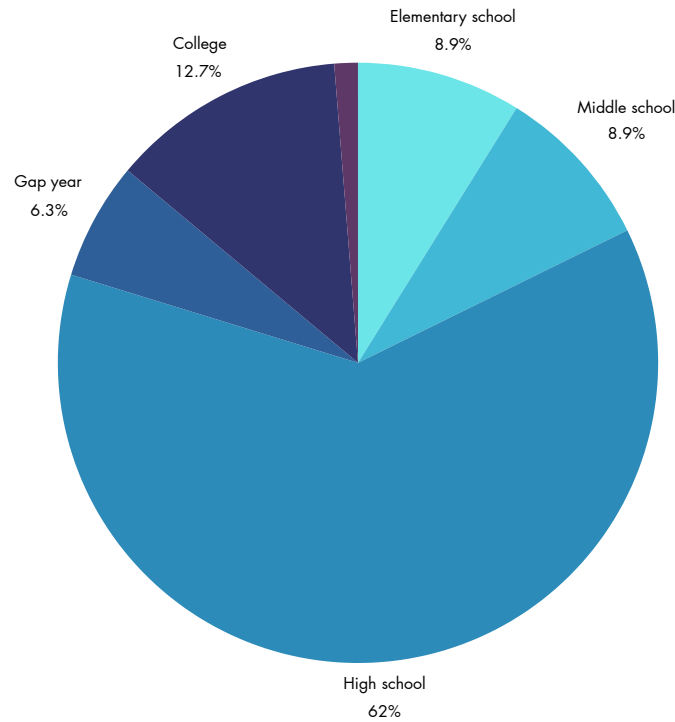
*Fun Home*: 1.5 students for every teaching artist

*The Sound of Music*: 2 students for every teaching artist

## LOCATION BY COUNTY

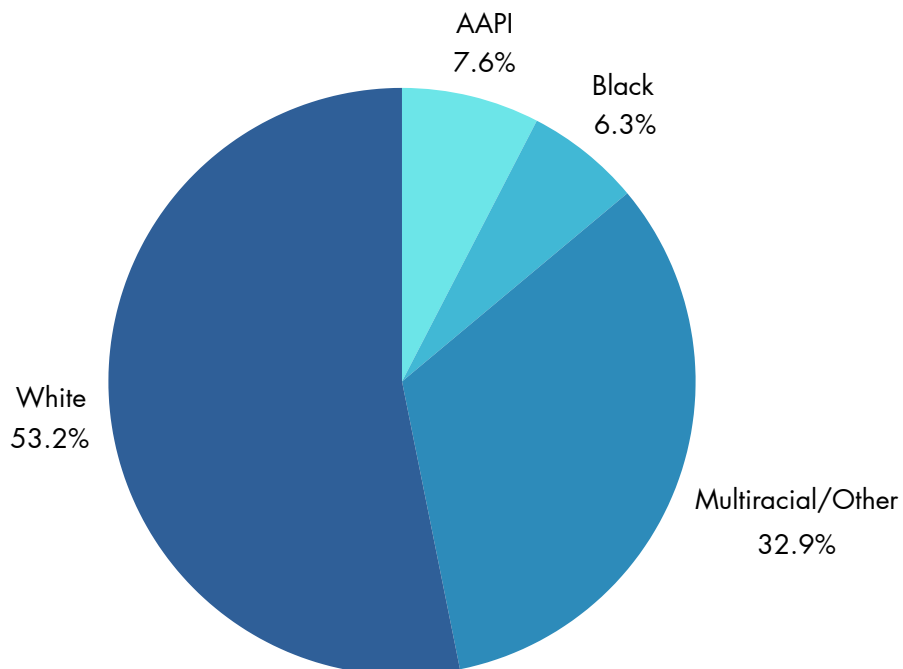


## YEAR IN SCHOOL



This season featured more college, gap year, and post-grad students than ever before, demonstrating Korsa's growing reputation as the premier training company for serious theater students.

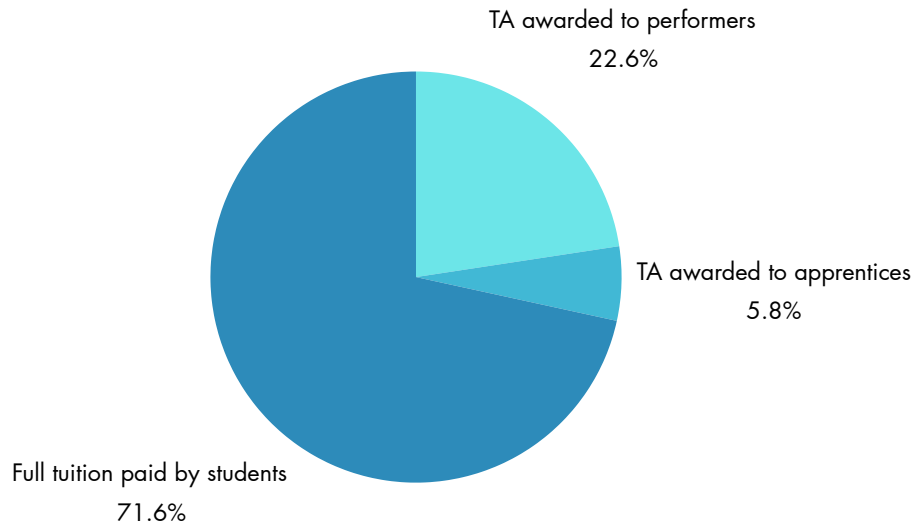
## RACE/ETHNICITY



This year's student body had the highest percentage yet of students who identified as more than one ethnicity or multiracial, reflecting demographic trends in the Bay Area.



## TUITION ASSISTANCE and SCHOLARSHIPS



**Total tuition budget:** \$187,200  
**Total TA awarded:** \$53,200 (28.4%)

This past season, **Korsa covered between 30-100% of tuition per applicant** for all 4 productions. TA is awarded on a sliding scale. Founders Scholarships and College Mentorships fully cover the cost of tuition. This season, we offered 3 Founders Scholarships and 11 College Mentorships.

## OUTREACH

For the first time this year, we implemented a **free student ticket program** to reach out to students who may not otherwise get the chance to see one of our productions. Of over 30 schools reached, 13 participated, and **we gave away between 30 - 100 tickets for each of our shows** this season. Some of the participating schools included Albany High School, College Preparatory School, Contra Costa School of the Performing Arts, Oakland School for the Arts, Saint Mary's College High School, and Skyline High School.

## IMPACT STORY: performer & apprentice

### KELI'I SALVADOR



I have performed with Korsa in 4 productions and was the Choreography Apprentice for *Little Shop of Horrors* last season. Korsa allows me to expand my creativity and opens doors for me that I wouldn't even think about. After working on *Little Shop*, I was inspired to pursue other choreographing opportunities that have furthered my career and skill not only as a choreographer but as a performer in general. Korsa is 100% supportive on my journey in this industry.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## PRODUCTIONS



November 3 – 12, 2023  
The Malonga Casquelourd  
Center for the Arts

*Little Shop of Horrors* is iconic cult-classic botanical black comedy about love, murder, and selling out. This beloved and bloody musical comedy opened our season with a bang and left audiences howling with laughter.



February 9 – 18, 2024  
The Malonga Casquelourd  
Center for the Arts

Written by award-winning Dave Malloy and Krista Knight for our students, *Don't Stop Me* is an electro-funk dance-a-thon to the death. The production was a visually stunning and profoundly relevant triumph.



April 26 – May 12, 2024  
The Malonga Casquelourd  
Center for the Arts

Alum Jacob Basri returned to Korsa to direct our 2nd Alumni Project, *Fun Home*, the critically-acclaimed adaptation of Alison Bechdel's graphic novel, featuring alumni, current students, and professional performers.



July 19 – 28, 2024  
El Cerrito High School's  
Performing Arts Theater

One of the most beloved musicals of all time, *The Sound of Music* tells the inspiring story of love and art in the face of fear and hatred. Our cast featured students age 7–23, fostering an environment of peer-mentorship.

## APPRENTICESHIPS



### Theater Arts Apprenticeship Program

Now in its 10th year, our TAAP program serves students who want to **study the behind-the-scenes aspects of stagecraft**, gaining **professional-level technical theater training** through our productions. Many students continue to return show after show, sometimes honing their skills in the same department, and sometimes exploring new areas of stagecraft.

This season we offered apprenticeships in Directing, Music Directing, Stage Management, Choreography, Scenic, Props, Costumes, Hair & Make-Up, Sound, and Lighting.



## Pit Orchestra Apprenticeship Program

Korsa invites **qualified student instrumentalists** to play in our Pit Orchestra Apprenticeship Program. **POAP is tuition-free** and a valuable learning experience for young musicians. Motivated students receive **exceptional musical training** and gain valuable experience **playing alongside local professionals** from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our 2023-24 season saw several returning POAP students, demonstrating a **growing loyalty** to the program. We also saw a number of **new student instrumentalists** who had never played in a pit orchestra before. POAP students are paired with professional local musicians who are also music educators, giving them an **extra special and unique mentorship** that greatly enhances their experience.



## IMPACT STORY: alum & stage manager

### LAURA CORNWALL

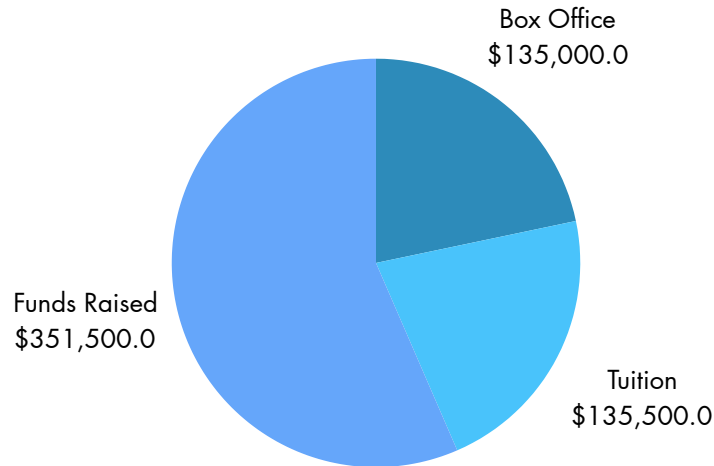


I was a stage manager with Korsa back in high school and returned this past season to work on *Fun Home*, and *Sound of Music* and will be the company's resident stage manager for the entire 2024–25 season. There's something poetic about returning as a professional to the artistic home that not only launched me onto this path but continues to grow alongside me.



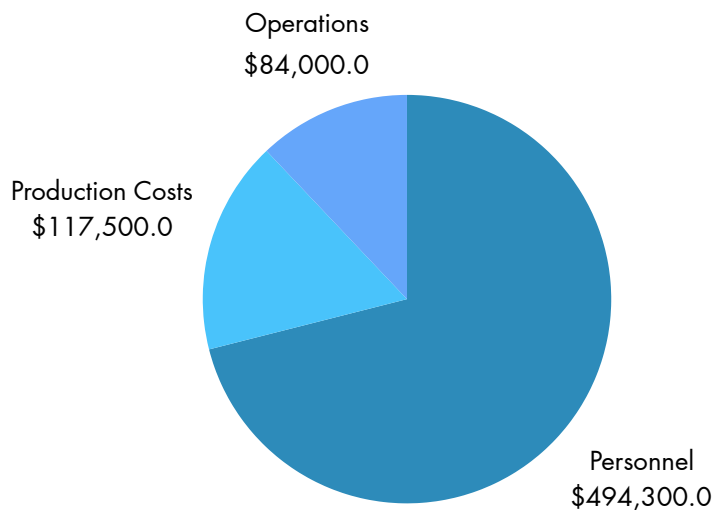
# OUR FINANCES

## REVENUE



**Total Revenue: \$622,000**

## EXPENSES



**Total Expenses: \$695,800**

This last fiscal year was a **time of tremendous growth for Korsa, one that required a financial leap of faith.** Our Board of Directors recognized that in order to move forward and pursue our dreams, the time was right to **invest in growing our staff**, even if it meant we would likely have a deficit year. We believe that **investing in our people now will ultimately strengthen and grow our organization**, both fiscally and programatically. Though this year's planned deficit is larger than we would have liked (thank you, inflation and ongoing pandemic-related challenges!), we will draw on some of our strategic financial reserves for the short term as we **chart a path forward that allows us to continue to serve our students and community.**



# OUR COMMUNITY

## STAFF & RESIDENT ARTISTS

<b>JENNIFER BOESING</b> Producing Artistic Director	<b>DAVID MÖSCHLER</b> Resident Music Director	<b>MOLLY BELL</b> Programs Director & Production Manager	<b>CELESTE KAMIYA</b> Marketing, Casting, & Outreach Director
<b>MARTHA WESTLAND</b> Development Consultant	<b>DIANA LEE</b> POAP Coordinator	<b>BILL BREWER</b> Facilities Manager	<b>RACHAEL HEIMAN</b> Resident Costume Designer
<b>DAWN NAKASHIMA</b> Props Designer & Scenic Artist	<b>THOMAS SOTO</b> Sound Designer/Mixer	<b>BERT BLANK</b> Sound Engineer	<b>GLEN EPPERSON</b> Scenic Consultant
<b>WHITNEY MOSS</b> Volunteer / Front of House Coordinator	<b>ROSA LUEVANO &amp; JESSICA WILAN</b> Box Office Managers	<b>STEPHANIE WADE</b> Graphics Designer	<b>KEVIN O'CONNOR</b> Website Manager
	<b>PAM CRANE</b> Registrar/ Resident Choreographer	<b>MIKE CRANE</b> Bookkeeper/ Controller	

## TEACHING ARTISTS, DESIGNERS, & TECHNICIANS

<b>JOE AYERS</b> Choreographer ( <i>Little Shop of Horrors, Fun Home</i> )	<b>JACOB BASRI</b> Director ( <i>Fun Home</i> )	<b>WYTHE BOWART</b> Scenic Painter ( <i>Fun Home, The Sound of Music</i> )	<b>AMELIA BRANSKI</b> Scenic Designer ( <i>Don't Stop Me</i> )
<b>JEN BROOKS</b> Hair & Makeup Designer ( <i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> )	<b>JANET COLLARD</b> Choreographer ( <i>Don't Stop Me</i> )	<b>LAURA CORNWALL</b> Stage Manager ( <i>Fun Home, The Sound of Music</i> )	<b>PAULINO DELEAL</b> Scenic Painter ( <i>Little Shop of Horrors, Fun Home</i> )
<b>CHACHI DELGADO</b> Choreographer ( <i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> )	<b>STEPHANIE FOISY, KAREN SPENCER, &amp; KELLY WILMETH</b> ASL Interpreters	<b>RICHARD FONG</b> Lighting & Projections Designer ( <i>Little Shop of Horrors, Don't Stop Me, The Sound of Music</i> )	<b>LUCRETIA FROKE</b> Puppet Designer ( <i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> ), Hair & Makeup Designer ( <i>Don't Stop Me, The Sound of Music</i> )

<p><b>JON GALLO</b> Music Director (<i>Fun Home</i> Shadow Cast)</p>	<p><b>CHESHIRE ISAACS</b> Production Photographer (<i>The Sound of Music</i>)</p>	<p><b>DAVE HAAZ-BAROQUE</b> Puppet Consultant (<i>Little</i> <i>Shop of Horrors</i>)</p>	<p><b>LILY HAJE</b> Dramaturg (<i>Fun Home</i>)</p>
<p><b>PHILLIP HARRIS</b> Music Director (<i>Little Shop</i> <i>of Horrors</i>)</p>	<p><b>LILY JACKSON</b> Director (<i>Fun Home</i> Shadow Cast)</p>	<p><b>JAMIE JUANG</b> Wardrobe Manager (<i>Little</i> <i>Shop of Horrors</i>)</p>	<p><b>CELESTE KAMIYA</b> Director (<i>Little Shop of</i> <i>Horrors, The Sound of</i> <i>Music</i>)</p>
<p><b>JOSHUA KARON</b> Scenic Builder (<i>The Sound</i> <i>of Music</i>)</p>	<p><b>MIKE LAWSON</b> Stage Manager (<i>Fun Home</i> Shadow Cast)</p>	<p><b>DIANA LEE</b> Music Director (<i>Little Shop</i> <i>of Horrors</i>)</p>	<p><b>HEATHER ONDERSMA</b> Intimacy &amp; Combat Director (<i>Fun Home, The Sound of</i> <i>Music</i>)</p>
<p><b>MITCHELL OST</b> Scenic Designer (<i>The Sound</i> <i>of Music</i>)</p>	<p><b>CHAD OWENS</b> Scenic Consultant (<i>Fun</i> <i>Home, The Sound of Music</i>)</p>	<p><b>KATHY ROGERS</b> Scenic Designer (<i>Little Shop</i> <i>of Horrors, Fun Home</i>)</p>	<p><b>SAYLOR</b> Lighting Designer (<i>Fun</i> <i>Home</i>)</p>
<p><b>ADRI SCHURMANN</b> Wardrobe Manager (<i>Don't</i> <i>Stop Me, Fun Home, The</i> <i>Sound of Music</i>)</p>	<p><b>LUKAS SMITHEY-ERICK</b> Scenic Builder (<i>Little Shop</i> <i>of Horrors, Don't Stop Me</i>)</p>	<p><b>MOLLY STEWART-COHN</b> Lighting Designer (<i>Don't</i> <i>Stop Me</i>)</p>	<p><b>ERIC WALTON</b> Music Director (<i>Fun Home</i>)</p>
<p><b>DAVE WEILAND</b> Production Photographer (<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>)</p>	<p><b>GABE WILKIE-ROGERS</b> Stage Manager (<i>Little Shop</i> <i>of Horrors, Don't Stop Me</i>)</p>	<p><b>ANN ZIEGLER</b> Production Photographer (<i>Don't Stop Me, Fun Home</i>)</p>	<p><b>BESSIE ZOLNO</b> Intimacy &amp; Combat Director (<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>)</p>

## IMPACT STORY: alum parent & volunteer

### JENNIFER WINCH



My daughter performed with Korsa in its early years as a company, and now I see every show and always bake brownies for concessions. It's been wonderful to see the dedication and commitment from so many parents over the years, a number of whom have continued to be involved in the volunteer corps driving the support machinery that keeps Korsa going, even after their kids aren't necessarily onstage anymore. Korsa experience really enriches the lives of its students. Keeping it going matters. I know it made a difference in my daughter Sarah's life.



# THANK YOU

As always, it is the astoundingly generous support of our community that keeps Korsa flourishing. You are the wind beneath our wings.

There are countless numbers of you who have given in so many different ways: volunteering, donating, teaching, bringing tech week meals, cheering from the audience, painting sets, making delicious baked goods for concessions, putting up posters and telling your friends about the company, logging hundreds of miles to and from rehearsal chauffeuring the "talent", and so much more.

**You make Korsa who we are, and we could not be more thankful.** We are looking forward to another fantastic season with this wonderful community.

