

Charleston's Absent Friends

Sponsorship Opportunities

Who We Are

Charleston's Absent Friends Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit performing arts organization dedicated to producing interactive shadow casts, live theater, and cult film experiences throughout the Charleston area.

Our mission is to create inclusive, community-driven theatrical experiences that celebrate creativity, audience participation, and the joy of cult cinema and live performance. Through productions, festivals, and special events, we provide welcoming spaces for audiences of all backgrounds while supporting the growth of local performing arts.

As a registered nonprofit, sponsorships and donations help support production costs, venue partnerships, costumes, props, and accessible community programming. Many sponsorship contributions may be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Charleston's Absent Friends collaborates with theaters, festivals, conventions, and community organizations to bring immersive performances and cult film experiences to audiences throughout the Lowcountry.

Our Productions & Events

Charleston's Absent Friends produces multiple live theatrical and cult film events each year throughout the Charleston area.

Rocky Horror Picture Show – Live Shadow Cast

Our flagship production, performed approximately **13 times per year** at the Terrace Theater.

- Average attendance: ~75 guests per show
- Venue capacity: 140
- Pride Month and Halloween shows regularly sell out

These performances bring together cult film fans, theater audiences, and members of Charleston's LGBTQIA+ community for interactive theatrical experiences.

The Room – Live Shadow Cast

Charleston's Absent Friends produced two live shadow cast performances of the cult classic *The Room*, with support from actor Greg Sestero.

Both performances sold out at the Terrace Theater, demonstrating our ability to draw large audiences for unique cult film events beyond our flagship productions.

The Princess Bride – Shadow Cast

Our interactive shadow cast of *The Princess Bride* combines the film with live performers and audience participation.

Past venues include:

- Goose Creek Amphitheater — outdoor performance with approximately **300 attendees**
- Itinerant Literate Books — special community screening event
- Trident Technical College — campus performance during **AtomaCon**

These events attract both devoted fans and new audiences through a highly interactive theatrical experience.

Shakespeare in the Park Circle

This outdoor theater event brings classic Shakespeare performances to community audiences in an accessible park setting.

Performances have been hosted at:

- Goose Creek Amphitheater
- Itinerant Literate Books

These productions introduce new audiences to Shakespeare through engaging and welcoming performances.

Young Frankenstein – Shadow Cast

Presented at **AtomaCon**, this performance connects Charleston’s Absent Friends with regional convention and pop culture audiences.

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

A cult comedy about the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein and their annual quiche breakfast.

Upcoming performances include:

- **Spoletto Festival USA** — May 28–29
 - **Park Circle Pride** — June 1–4
 - Expected attendance: **75–100 guests per show**
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Estimated Annual Audience Reach










Across productions, festivals, and community events, Charleston’s Absent Friends connects with approximately:

- **~975 Rocky Horror attendees annually**
- **300–400 Quiche audiences**
- **500+ convention and outdoor event attendees**

Estimated total annual reach: 1,500–2,000 audience interactions

Our Audience

Charleston's Absent Friends reaches a diverse and engaged community that includes:

-  Theater audiences
-  Cult film fans
-  LGBTQIA+ community members
-  Neurodiverse audiences and inclusive arts communities
-  Minority and underrepresented communities
-  Festival attendees
-  Convention audiences
-  Nightlife and drag show audiences
-  Horror and podcast listeners

Sponsors gain exposure across multiple productions, venues, and events throughout the year.

Rocky Horror-Themed Sponsorship Levels

“Time Warp” Sponsor — \$100

- Name listed on website sponsor page
 - Social media thank-you post
 - Recognition in event sponsor list
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“Sweet Transvestite” Sponsor — \$250

- Logo on website sponsor page
- Social media shoutout
- Verbal thank-you at one show

- Ability to distribute coupons or flyers
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“Frank-N-Furter” Sponsor — \$500

- Logo on website with link
 - Social media promotion
 - Verbal recognition at multiple shows
 - Promotional items included in giveaways
 - Logo placement on select event marketing
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“Rocky Horror” Presenting Sponsor — \$1,000+

- Prominent logo placement on website
 - Logo on promotional materials
 - Multiple social media promotions
 - Recognition across multiple productions
 - Opportunity to collaborate on special promotions
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Sponsorship Term

Sponsorships support **one Charleston’s Absent Friends performance season (July 1–June 30)** and include promotional recognition across productions, events, and digital platforms.

Sponsors may choose to **automatically renew their sponsorship annually** through our website to maintain continuous visibility and support for Charleston’s Absent Friends programming.

Automatic renewal ensures uninterrupted sponsor recognition across future seasons unless cancelled prior to the renewal date.

Season sponsors receive recognition and promotional benefits across productions, events, and marketing throughout the entire season. This structure allows sponsors to maintain consistent visibility as Charleston's Absent Friends presents performances, festivals, and community events across the Lowcountry.

Because our programming spans multiple venues and productions throughout the year, a season sponsorship provides extended exposure to a wide range of audiences including theatergoers, cult film fans, festival attendees, and members of the LGBTQIA+ and creative arts communities.

Sponsor Recognition & Venue Considerations

Charleston's Absent Friends works with a variety of theaters, festivals, conventions, and community venues throughout the Lowcountry. While we make every effort to recognize sponsors across our productions and events, **some sponsor visibility opportunities may vary depending on venue policies, existing venue partnerships, or exclusivity agreements with venue sponsors.**

In these cases, Charleston's Absent Friends will ensure sponsors receive visibility through **other productions, events, digital promotion, or marketing channels** throughout the season.

Our goal is to provide meaningful sponsor exposure while respecting the partnerships and agreements of the venues that host our productions.

Community Partnerships & Collaborative Events

Charleston's Absent Friends regularly collaborates with other creators, venues, and community organizations to expand our reach.

Midnight Terrors Podcast

We partner with the **award-winning Midnight Terrors Podcast**, allowing us to:

- Cross-promote shows to podcast listeners
- Produce collaborative content and interviews

- Expand sponsor visibility within the horror and cult film community

Sponsors may be included in podcast promotions as part of sponsorship packages.

Pre-Parties, Drag Shows & Community Events

We also collaborate with **Sweatman's Garden** to host themed pre-parties, drag shows, and community gatherings tied to our productions.

These events connect sponsors with additional audiences including:

- nightlife and drag communities
- LGBTQIA+ audiences
- festival and event attendees
- cult film and horror fans

Sponsors may be featured through announcements, giveaways, or promotional collaborations.

Where Sponsor Visibility Appears

Sponsors receive recognition across multiple platforms and events.

Live Event Recognition

- Verbal recognition during pre-show announcements
- Logo placement on event signage or programs
- Promotional materials or giveaways distributed to audiences

Social Media Promotion

- Sponsor spotlight posts

- Event promotions
- Instagram story mentions
- Cross-promotion during major productions and festivals

Website Visibility

- Logo placement on sponsor page
- Link to sponsor website
- Recognition on event pages and announcements

Collaborative Promotions

Sponsors may also be included in joint promotions with Midnight Terrors Podcast and events at Sweatman's Garden.

Let's Make Something Weird Together

Charleston's Absent Friends is proud to create inclusive, community-driven theatrical experiences that celebrate cult classics, creativity, and audience participation.

Don't dream it. Sponsor it.