

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

*Molière*  
**IN THE PARK**



# A Message of Accessibility

From Our Board President Kaliswa Brewster

**What does a theater space where everyone feels welcome look like?**

In this time of division and unrest, we believe that live theater can unite and heal.

While Molière wrote his plays in France over 350 years ago, they remain timeless, as the flaws they call out are fundamental to us as humans. But rather than preach, Molière holds up a mirror and asks us to look — and laugh. Brooklyn is a microcosm of The United States and of the world. It is home to every type of person, from every culture and every background. MIP's goal is to break through the silos and foster community across all of our micro groups.

What does a theater space where everyone feels welcome and at home look like? **We believe it looks like Molière in the Park** — where people from all walks of life sit together shoulder to shoulder, laugh together, and come out of the experience understanding each other a little bit better.

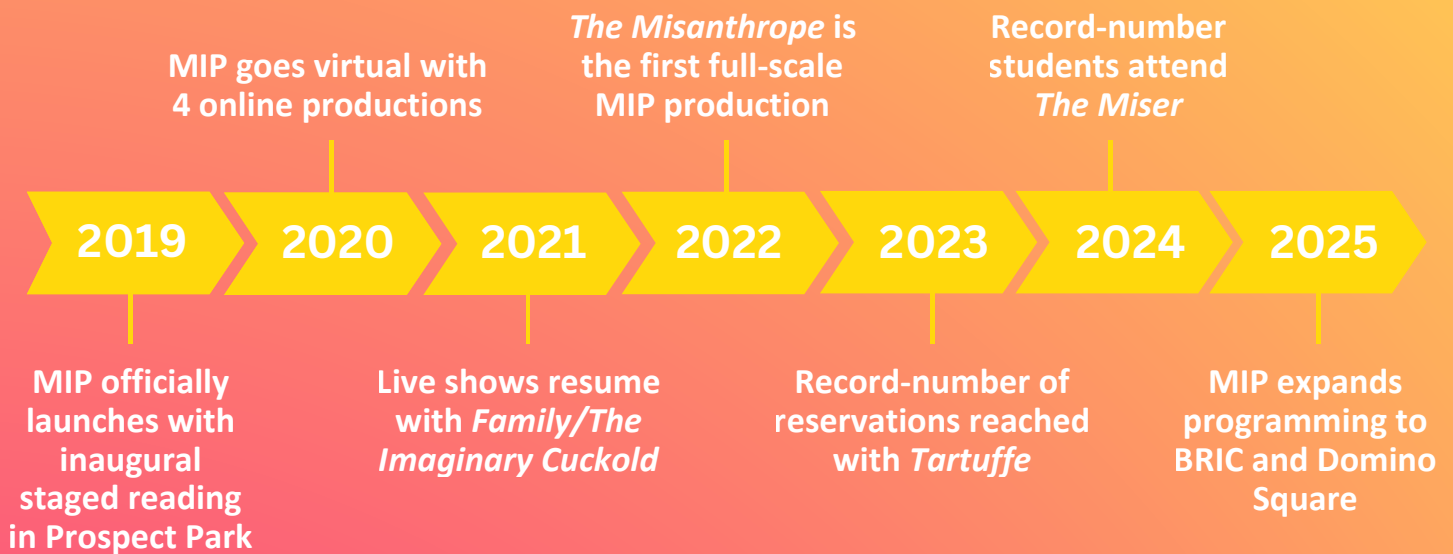


*Molière*  
**IN THE PARK**

# Who and Where We Are

## Free Theater for Every Brooklynite

The mission of Molière in the Park (MIP) is to foster empathy and unity within the diverse communities of Brooklyn through the arts. We offer opportunities for all to experience world-class theater at no cost. MIP's vision is of a Brooklyn where all communities can benefit equally from access to theater and the arts.



# What Your Support Made Possible in 2025

## *The Imaginary Invalid*

For the first time in MIP's history, our production of *The Imaginary Invalid* expanded beyond straight theater to include original choreography (by Cal Hunt) and music (by Johnathan Akuma Moore). The turnout for this production exceeded all expectations, resulting in the highest-ever reservation-to-attendance ratio and overall in 2025. When we include the September presentations at Domino Square and our readings and workshop presentations through the year, over 9,000 individuals made a reservation to see one of our performances this year.



**22 free performances, including 2 student matinees**



**9,000+ ticket reservations**



**400 public school students in attendance**



*"Thank you for continually inviting our school community to attend Molière in the Park! It is continually my students' favorite production they see every year, and my 9th grade students told me it was 'amazing, hilarious, and they didn't know there were so many poop jokes in old plays.'"*

- Lane Barbour, teacher at Brooklyn Emerging Leaders Academy

*Molière*  
**IN THE PARK**

# Community Impact Over The Past 4 Seasons

Sharing the Joy of Live Theater



**30,000 +**  
ticket reservations



**65%**  
of our audience comes  
from Brooklyn



**100**  
free performances



**61%**  
of our Brooklyn audience comes  
from low-income zip codes



**1,400+**  
public school  
students served



**45%**  
of our Brooklyn audience comes  
from majority non-white zip codes



*Molière*  
**IN THE PARK**

# Our Commitments

- **Ensuring everyone sees themselves on stage**

Our casting is always non-traditional, racially conscious, and reflective of our audience and surrounding community.

- **Highlighting themes that unify us**

Much like Prospect Park's unifying draw to Brooklynites, Molière's plays point to our commonalities rather than our differences. MIP is a celebration of Brooklyn's unique blend of diversity, innovation, and inclusion.

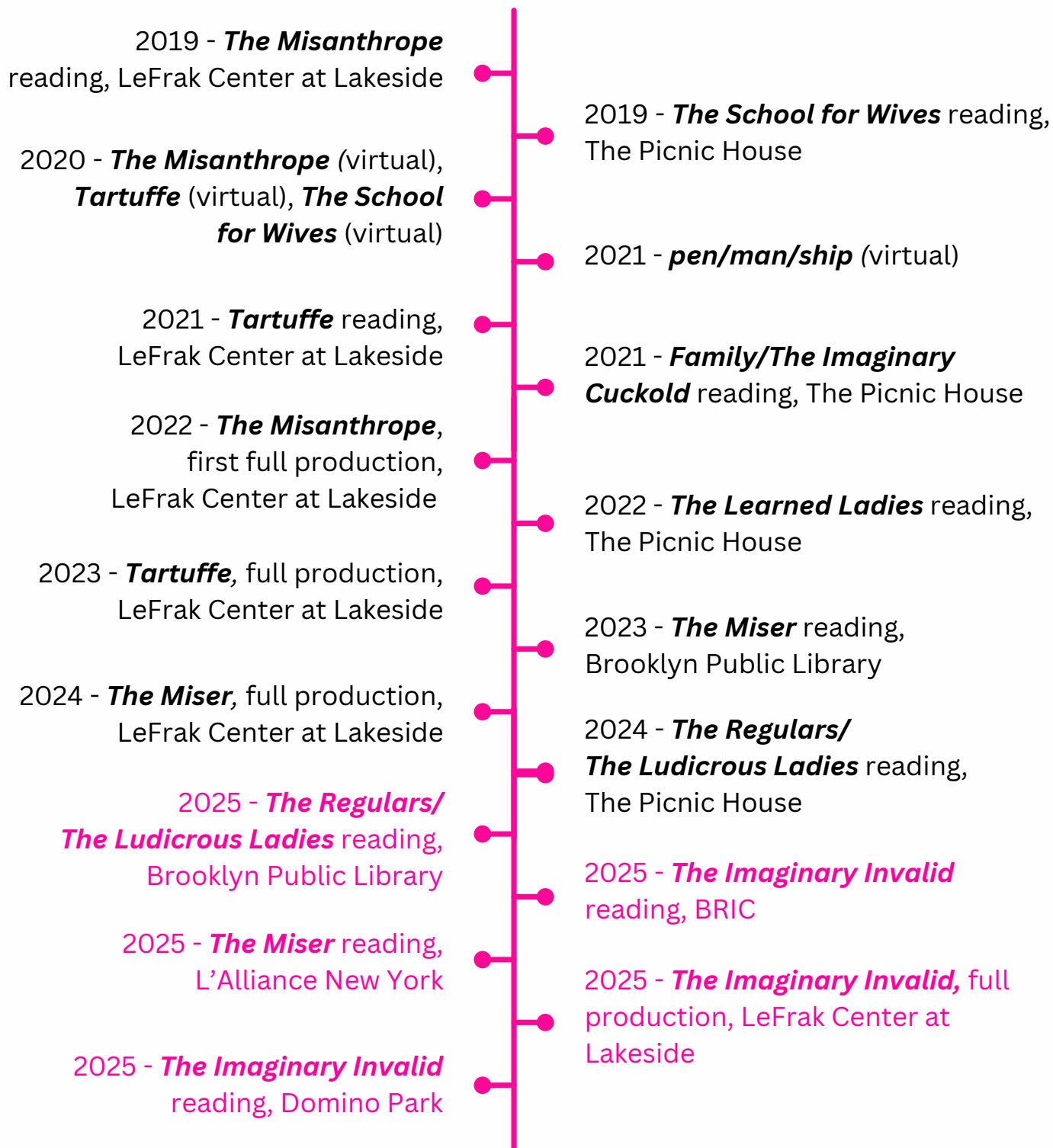


- **Re-imagining the classics for public schools students**

We have shared our contemporary versions of Molière's plays with **over 1,400 Brooklyn students** over the last three years of programming.



# Program History



# Looking Towards 2026

## *Don Juan*



We will offer 20 free performances of Molière's most controversial tragicomedies *Don Juan*.

*Don Juan*, with its enduring resonance and distinguished place in Molière's body of work, is a sensationally daring exploration of human desire, hypocrisy, and social transgression. It demonstrates Molière's unparalleled skill in balancing comedy with profound ethical questioning. By reviving *Don Juan* for a contemporary audience, MIP will highlight the timeless relevance of Molière's insights.

With this production and the many one-off staged readings we will offer throughout Brooklyn in 2026, we look forward to building on the growth and momentum we experienced in 2025, and meeting our goal to reach 10,000 individuals with our free programming, including hundreds of students from nearby public schools.



DON JUAN staged reading at the Prospect Park Picnic House, December 2025

# Our Partnering Venues

## Creating Easy Access

The **LeFrak Center at Lakeside** is a recreational complex at the southeast corner of Prospect Park, conveniently accessible from a number of underrepresented and predominantly non-white neighborhoods.

We make sure our open-air theater, built from scratch every year, is visible to all, which presents a number of advantages:

- An opportunity for anyone who passes by to see our stage and experience the work.
- A feeling of openness, inclusion, and equality rarely felt in traditional proscenium theaters.



## New partnership: Domino Park, Williamsburg

*The Imaginary Invalid* at Domino Square's multipurpose amphitheater, September 2025



# MIP in the Press

## Review: When 'Tartuffe' Meets Trump, It's Revolutionary

A streaming production of the Molière comedy, with allusions to the White House as well as Black Lives Matter, tears down walls to rebuild a classic.



Clockwise from top, cast members in "Tartuffe" include Toccarra Cash, Jennifer Mudge, Naomi Lorrain and Jared McNeill. via Molière in the Park

[Go to NY Times review](#)

*"The Imaginary Invalid is being presented with a rich imagination... A great treat... creatively and endearingly translated and directed by Lucie Tiberghien."*

- Linda Armstrong, *New York Amsterdam News*

*"Wonderful"*

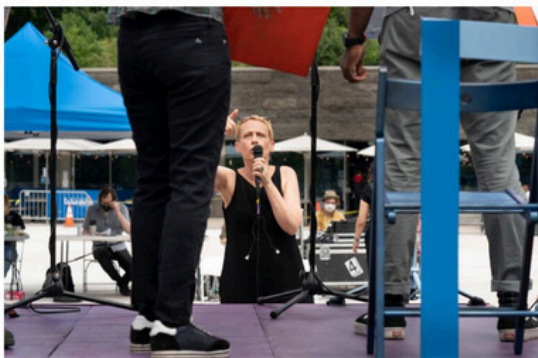
- Alexandra Schwartz, *The New Yorker*

*"And its latest production, Tartuffe, or The Hypocrite, about a grifter posing as a spiritual adviser, is as wickedly relevant now as it was in the days of Louis XIV... Little known, and set in a humble corner of Brooklyn, Molière in the Park is easy to miss. But don't."*

- Alessandra Stanley, *Air Mail*

## Theater

REVIEWS & TICKETS | CRITICS' PICKS | FAMILY FRIENDLY | RECENTLY OPENED



SARA KOLEWICKI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

### For a New Troupe, Going Digital Has Been Easier Than Returning Live

Molière in the Park garnered praise for Zoom productions of "Tartuffe" and other plays. Putting on an outdoor show in Brooklyn has been another matter.

7h ago • By STUART MILLER

*"The eight actors... bite into Molière's language and action with wholehearted fervor"*

- David Finkle, *New York Stage Review*

*"Leaving the park, I wondered (as I often have), why we don't get more Molière revivals... Hidden in the play's farcical comings and goings lurks a darker question: In a world where good manners equal flagrant dishonesty, how is one to proceed without losing one's soul? After you're done laughing, you can ponder that thought for a nice long while."*

- Jon Sobel, *Blogcritics*

[Go to NY Times piece](#)

*Molière*  
**IN THE PARK**

# MIP Board of Directors



**Kaliswa Brewster**  
*President*



**Daniel Klingenstein**  
*Treasurer*



**Maria Ryan**  
*Secretary*



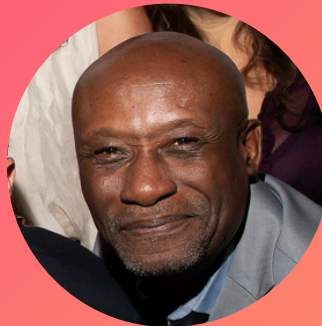
**Paul Brill**  
*Director*



**Anne-Sophie  
De Villeroy**  
*Director*



**Lisa Gorlitsky**  
*Director*



**Dordy Jourdain**  
*Director*



**Muriel Soenens**  
*Director*



**Mary Vines**  
*Director*



**Samira Willey**  
*Director*

**Interested in  
getting involved?**

Reach out at:  
[Lucie.tiberghien@moliereinthepark.org](mailto:Lucie.tiberghien@moliereinthepark.org)

*Molière*  
**IN THE PARK**

# Thank You to All Our Supporters and Partners!



**Council on  
the Arts**



**Cultural  
Affairs**



**LeFrak  
Center at  
Lakeside**



## FOUNDATIONS

**Lily Auchincloss Foundation  
Emma A. Sheaffer Charitable Trust  
Thompson Family Foundation  
Evelyn Sharp Foundation  
The Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation  
Bloomberg Philanthropies  
The American Society of The French  
Legion of Honor  
The Richenthal Foundation**

## SPONSORS

**The Araca Group**

*Molière*  
**IN THE PARK**