



Latinx Shakespeares

Melanie Leon, Sydney Harnage, Dr. Carla Della Gatta
Department of English



Abstract

Latinx Shakespearean productions have been largely undertheorized throughout history despite their cultural significance and prevalence throughout numerous communities. In an effort to make available this archive of Latinx Shakespearean productions, this project utilizes data gathered by Dr. Carla Della Gatta. Organizing the research conducted on various Latinx themes in Shakespearean adaptations, the relationship between Shakespeare and Latinx culture, and the impact of the “West Side Story Effect,” a term coined by Dr. Della Gatta, results in an increase in the amount of information regarding Latinx Shakespeares that is available to the general public. The following research aims to compose an easily accessible database of Latinx Shakespearean productions, while providing insight into their importance, unique qualities, and impacts on communities around the country.

Methods

Compiling the data containing detailed information of Latinx Shakespearean productions researched by Dr. Carla Della Gatta into an online database consisted of the following 3 phases:

Phase 1: Researching other websites featuring theatre related information and noting elements we would like to include in our website, as well as the elements we felt would hinder an effective presentation of the data.

Phase 2: Selecting aesthetic and foundational elements for the website including color schemes, layout, images, and website platform.

Phase 3: Inserting data into the website and utilizing trial-and-error to develop the most effective way to insert information as well as ensuring that the website would be easy to edit in the future to enable database expansion.

Results

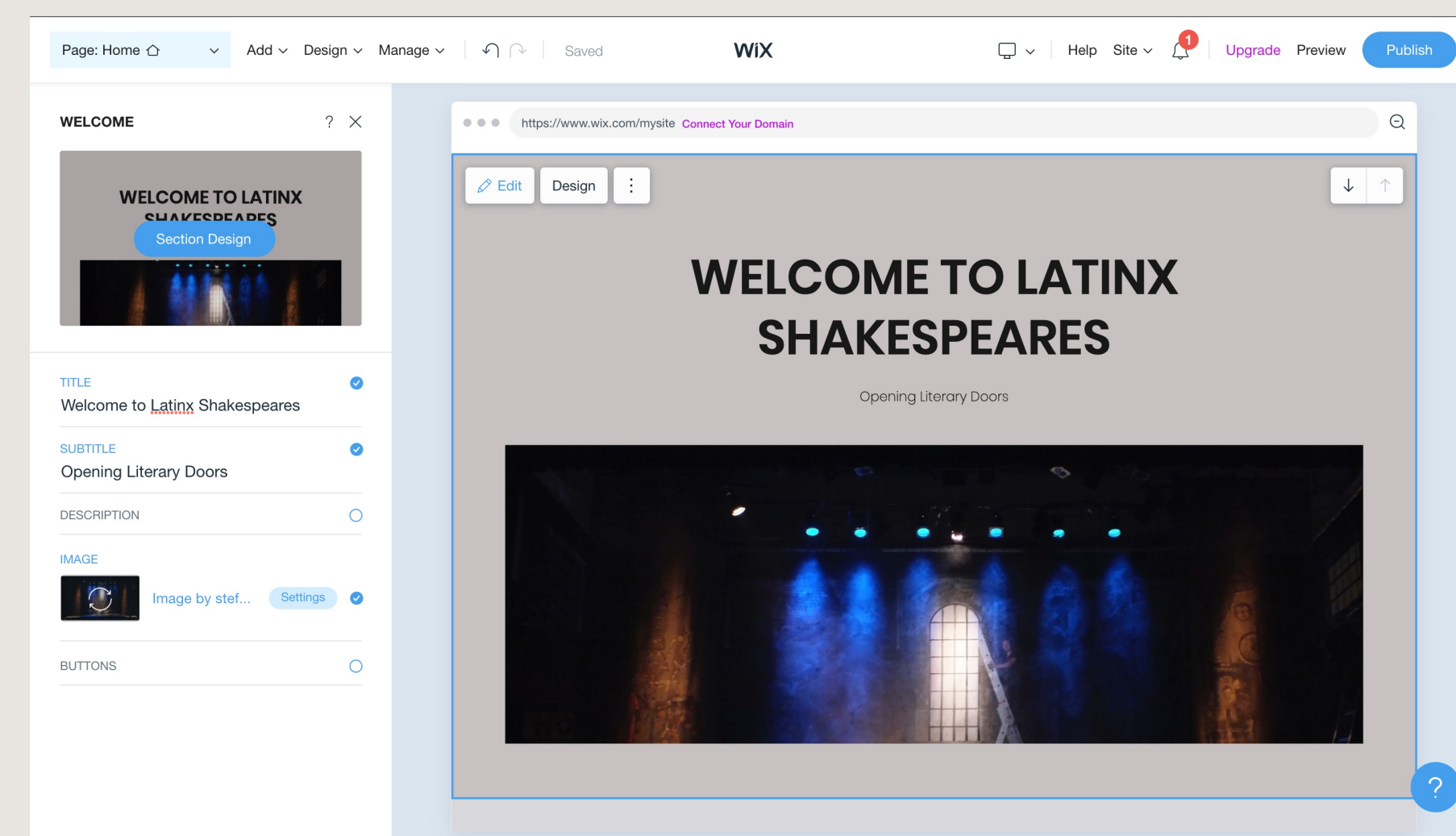


Figure 1- Landing Page

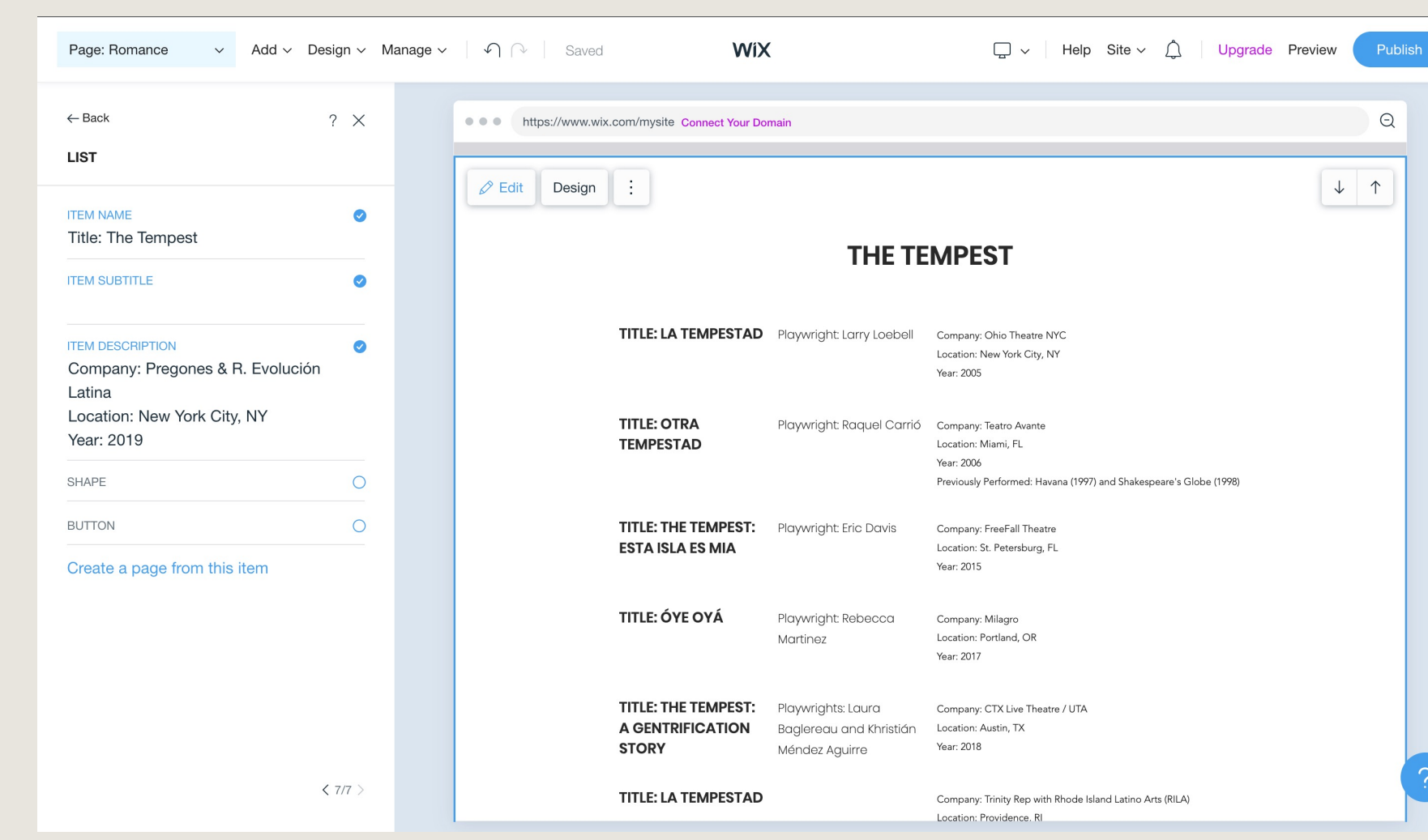


Figure 2- Romances Page

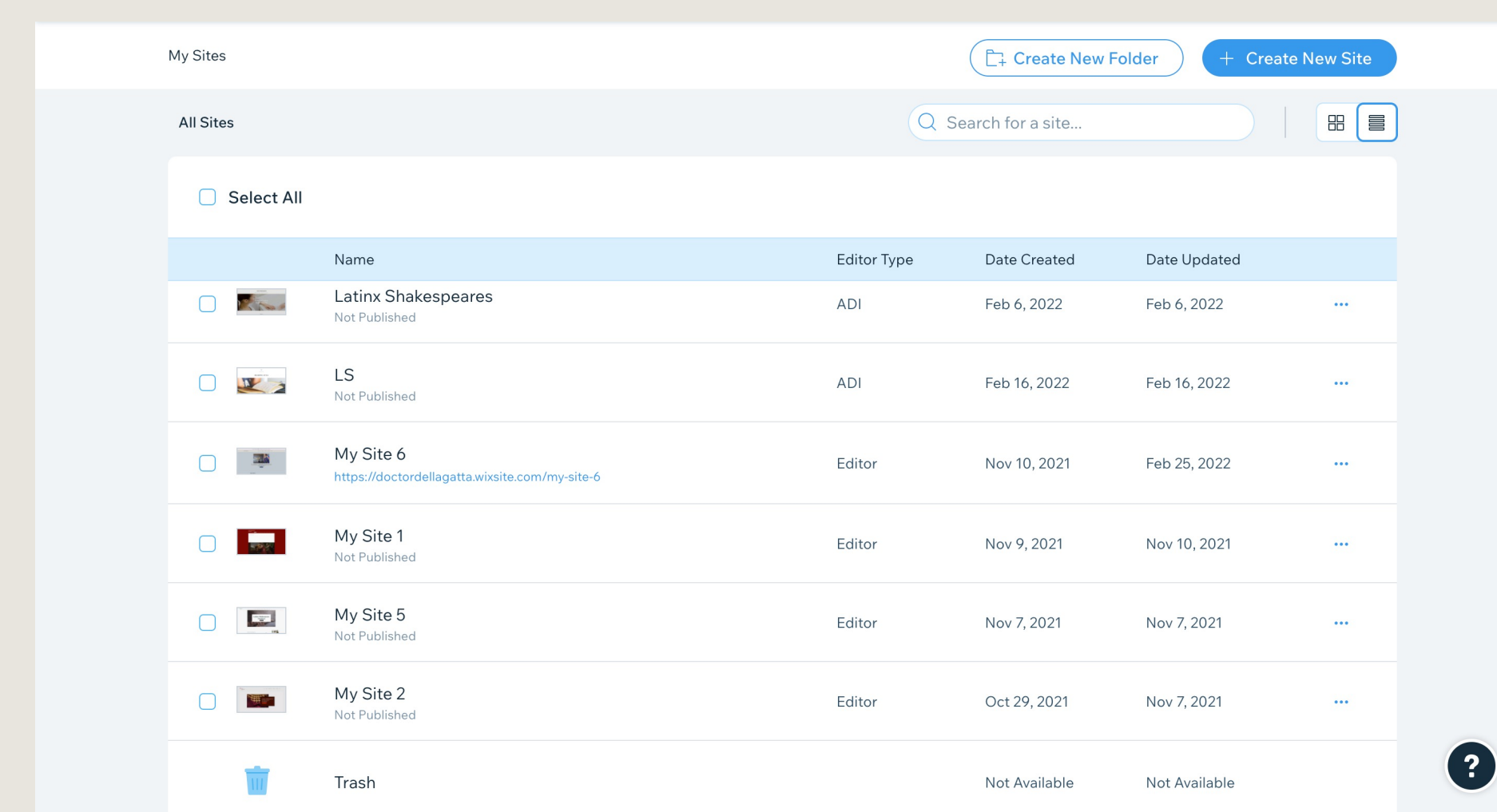


Figure 3- The photo above exhibits all the sites that were initially created. The sites were then merged to create the official database layout.

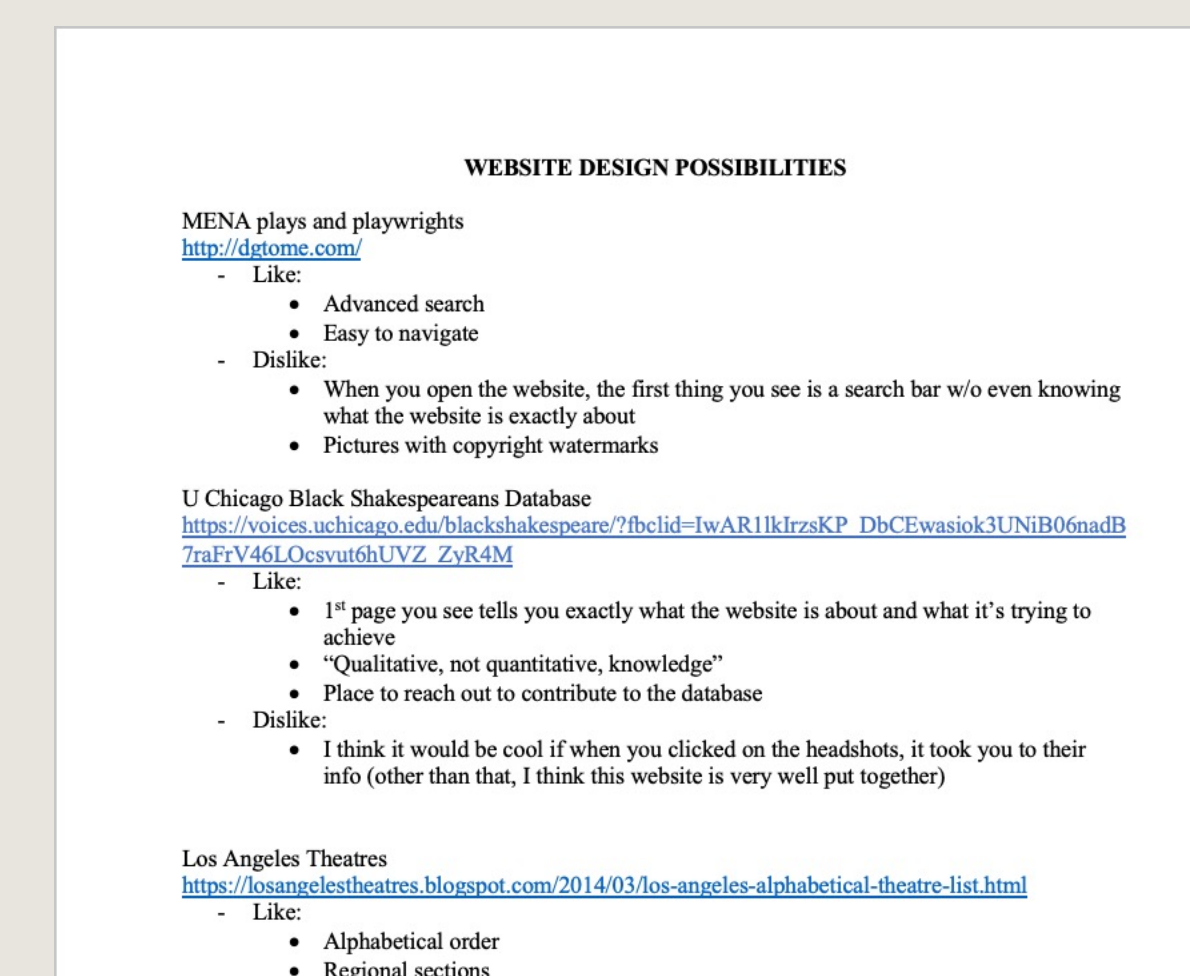
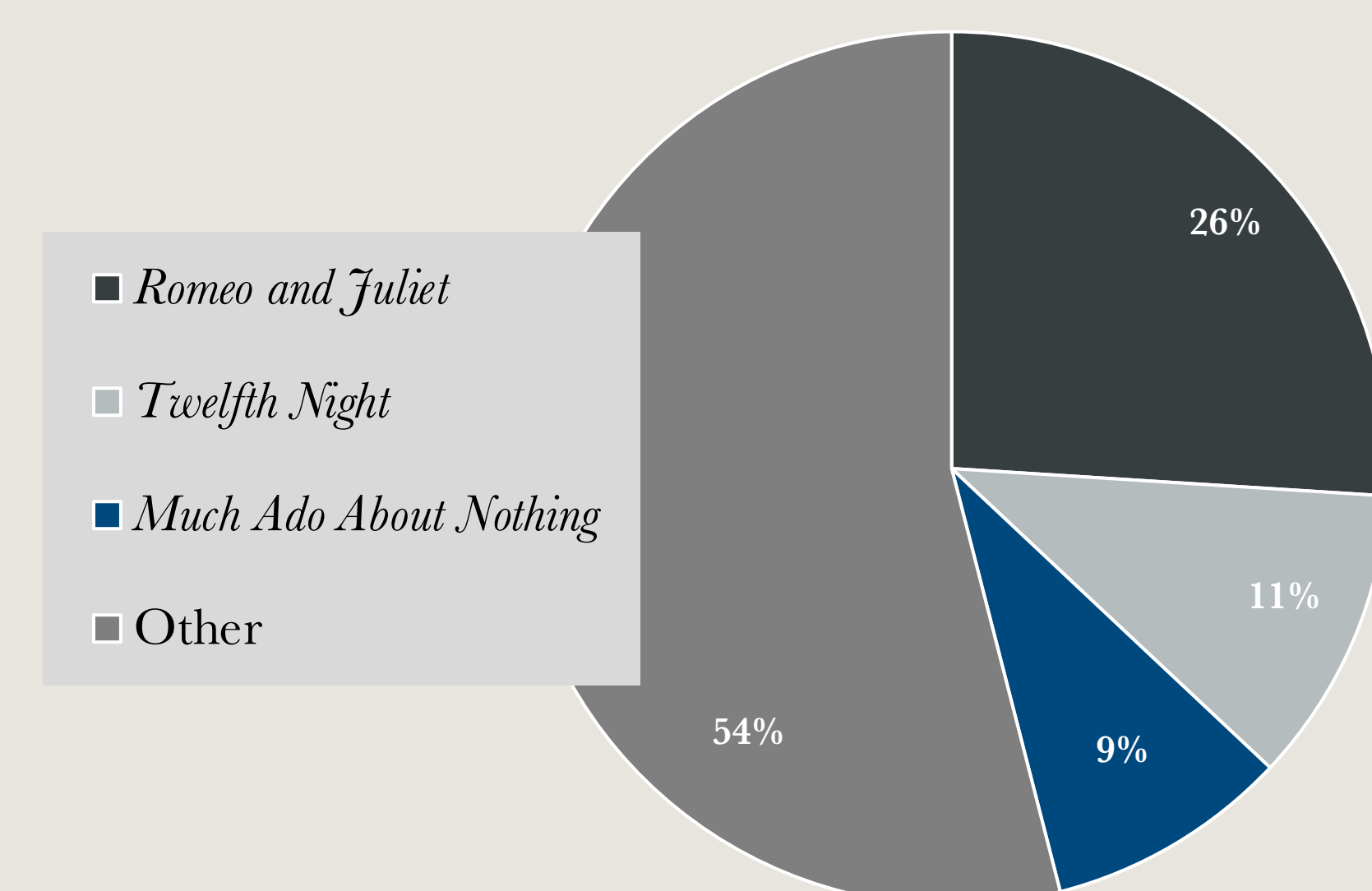
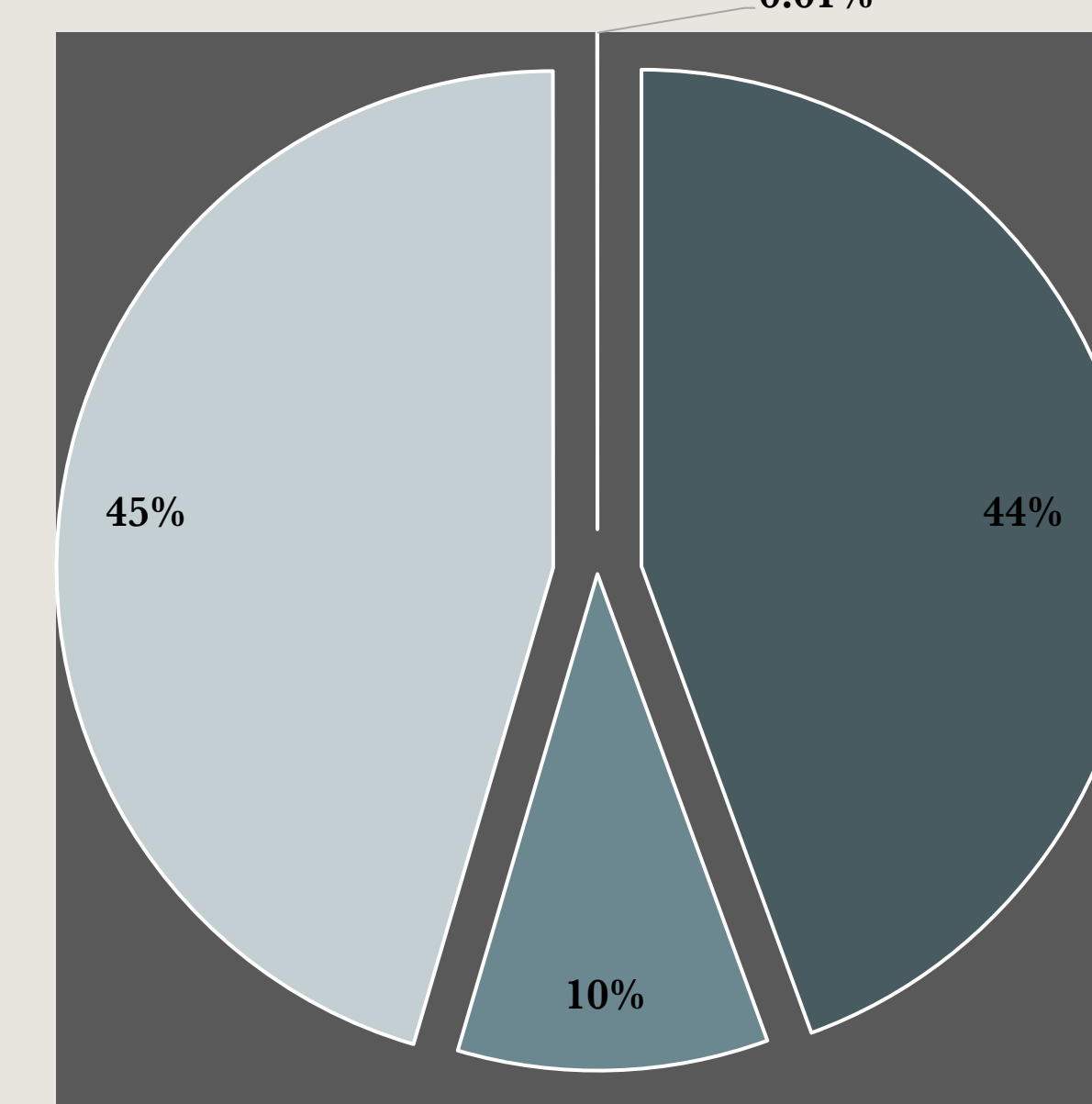


Figure 4- The photo above displays the initial phase in this research. After analyzing other theatre related websites, we created comprehensive lists that contained the advantages and disadvantages of each website.

Latinx Shakespearean Productions



Genre



Discussion

The aim of this research is to shine a light on adaptations of Shakespearean plays, which could not have been produced without the Latinx community. By recording Latinx productions into a database which is available to anyone, we are keeping the accomplishments of those writers, directors, performers, and more from being lost to history. Due to the fleeting nature of dramatic productions, especially those performed before the time of social media, the adaptations can only be appreciated by the audience and the company themselves. Collecting this information and creating a catalogue for anyone to research helps prevent these adaptations from being overlooked and forgotten. It shines a spotlight on talent within the Latinx community and the portrayal of bilingualism and different cultures in classically white plays.

Future Directions

After our involvement in the creation of this project, Dr. Carla Della Gatta will continue to maintain the website and add more information and productions as she sees fit. Additional things like photographs and performance reviews will be added over time as rights are obtained and/or permission is granted. We hope that this database will inspire talented Latinx children to pursue their dreams in drama performances. Also, this website can be helpful to theatre-makers, historians, and educators, and will be a resource for teaching and creating bilingual theatre.

References

- Della Gatta, Carla. "Hamlet (review)." *Shakespeare Bulletin*, vol. 30, no. 1, Spring 2012, pp. 72-73
- Della Gatta, Carla. "From *West Side Story* to *Hamlet*, *Prince of Cuba*: Shakespeare and Latinidad in the United States." *Shakespeare Studies*. 2016, vol. 44, pp. 151-157
- "Black Shakespeare (ANS) Database." *Black Shakespeares Database*. University of Chicago.