The 2018 Season Has Been Selected

Raymond Caldwell
Artistic Director

If you follow the Festival's online announcements, you may already know the lineup of plays we have selected for our 33rd season, but in case you haven't heard, here it is.

The season opener will be William Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost, a comic romp about a young king and his three friends who swear to avoid the opposite sex in favor of more intellectual pursuits — until they meet four beautiful young women who make it impossible for them to keep that vow. TSF's production is set in the 1920s and includes popular songs from that period. Young at heart, colorful, and filled with nostalgia, Love's Labour's Lost will delight all ages.

For the non-Shakespeare, non-musical play, we are bringing back one of dramatic literature's true comic masterpieces — Molière's timeless and hilarious comedy, Tartuffe. When the kind, yet gullible Orgon invites a religious zealot named Tartuffe into his home, he has no idea that he has accepted a snake into his den. Orgon's wife and son, through a series of deliciously vengeful tricks, succeed in exposing Tartuffe as one of the world's most detestable hypocrites. Tartuffe is the most famous and admired play by Molière, sometimes called "The Shakespeare of France."

The second Shakespearean play this season is one the Festival has not produced before. It is the intriguing story of one of the most dramatic periods in England's history — the brief reign of King John. The play deals with John's misguided decisions and human shortcomings, royal infighting about who is the rightful heir to the throne, and the political and social unrest during King John's reign. Most people remember King John for being forced to sign the Magna Carta, or as the "bad king" who opposed Robin Hood, but Shakespeare ignores both of those stories to depict the fall of a weak king and the rise of a stronger one — an event that changed world history and even influenced our own democratic form of government. The play is full of surprises and memorable characters, and it offers our audience a chance to see a rare performance of one of Shakespeare's "hidden gems."

The fourth main stage show will be another TSF premiere, the 1964 musical 110 in the Shade. Based on The Rainmaker by Richard Nash, 110 in the Shade takes place in a drought-stricken Western American town desperate for rain, telling a heartwarming story of young Lizzie Curry who is convinced she will be a spinster, and Bill Starbuck, the charming con-man who comes into town promising to make it rain. It is a musical about the value of hope and the importance of dreams — the power of believing in something. It is a touching and uplifting love story that rekindles our faith in human nature. The music is by Harvey Schmidt with lyrics by Tom Jones. The book is by N. Richard Nash. The 2018 season will also feature a production for children and a play produced in our UpStairs space. Look for both of these titles to be announced soon.

We look forward to seeing you at the theatre this summer to celebrate another season, and we thank you for your support and patronage for the last 32 years.
**A Note From the President of the Guild**

Wow – I’m still recovering (in a good way) from the 2017 TSF array of plays and wonderful interaction. And now, the Festival is hard at work preparing for the upcoming and wonderful 2018 season of plays and performances. And, we, the TSF Guild Board, are looking out to our membership with such gratitude for your support. We, too, are continuing our membership preparation that began during the plays this past summer. For all of you Guild members – thank you. Thank you for being part of us and for helping make the TSF Guild the entity of hospitality and home for the TSF Festival participants while they are here. With your help, we continue to roll out the “Welcome Mat” in Kilgore, Texas.

As you all know, being a member of the TSF Guild is like being part of a large group or family with extended arms that are ready, willing and able to embrace the troupe and their performance and professional gifts with each new season. The TSF Guild is known not only throughout Texas but also throughout the professional theatre community for our outreach and welcoming spirit. The contributions, dedication, energy and enthusiasm of the Guild Members are extraordinary.

You and your membership are a valued part of the Guild and we so appreciate your efforts -- with financial and/or involvement support. With that said, if you have not renewed your TSF Guild Membership, please do so today. In addition, please act as an ambassador for us and for the Guild and encourage and recruit friends, neighbors and others in your life wheel to join us and join you in becoming members of the TSF Guild. Share the wonder that is the Texas Shakespeare Festival and share your commitment to this unique hospitality with your friends, new and old, and family.

Looking forward to another wonderful year and season with you. Thank you for your membership and your support.

_Claudia Morgan-Gray_
_TSF Guild President_

**TSF Foundation News**

The TSF Foundation Board of Directors met for their annual meeting on August 29th. 2017-18 officers were elected:
President - Christina Anderson of Marshall
Vice President- Linda Craig of Henderson
Secretary- Lynn Wells of Longview
Treasurer- Brenda Linton of Longview
Sue Brown of Kilgore, Past President

The board heard reports from the newly formed committees that included Finance – Chair: Brenda Linton; Vision –Chair: Christina Anderson; Endowment – Chair: Linda Craig; Building – Chair: Stephen McHaney; Fund Raising – Chair: Sue Brown. The Guild report was presented by Guild President-Elect Claudia Morgan-Gray.

The board welcomed Fran Alford of Henderson and Ronnie Spradlin of Kilgore to the board. Outgoing President Sue Brown thanked board members for their committee work during the year plus their successful raffle and letter campaign to provide funds for the Foundation’s annual contribution to the Festival. She reported that for the first time, the Foundation and Guild purchased all the merchandise for the 2017 Stratford Room. Kilgore College President Dr. Brenda Kays and Vice President of Instruction Dr. Mike Turpin were welcomed to the meeting. The Foundation’s next meeting will be November 7.

**Report from the Hard-Working Company Events Committee on the Work Done by Hard-Working Guild Members**

_Gem Meacham and Eileen Kosnik, Co-Vice Presidents_

**Monday Events**

Fifty individuals and six organizations sponsored nine Monday events. Hosts welcomed the company for evenings of fun and food in Kilgore, Henderson, Longview, Tyler, and Lake Cherokee. Monday events included the Welcome and Strike dinners hosted by and open to all Guild members.

**Adopt an Artist**

A record number of company members were adopted by Guild members for an outing, whether it was a lunch, an evening meal or some other social event.

**Totes/ Poor Yoric’s Closet/ Stratford Room/ Kilgore Chili’s “Give-Back”**

Guild dues purchased welcome totes which were presented to each member of the company upon their arrival. The totes were stuffed with usable items, plus throughout the summer, volunteers kept Poor Yoric’s Closet at the Center stocked with toilet paper and laundry pods.

This year for the first time, Guild dues underwrote most of the Stratford Room merchandise. The sales proceeds went directly to help fund the Festival.

Chili’s Restaurant of Kilgore sponsored “Give Back Tuesdays” for the second year. Chili’s donated 15% of purchases made by customers who identified themselves as TSF patrons.

**Breakfast/Lunch/Change-over Meals**

Guild dues supplied food for breakfast on sixty-four mornings, Tuesday through Sunday, May 19-July 31, 2017.

Lunch basics every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday were purchased with Guild dues. To supplement the basics, over 100 volunteers answered the call to help keep the company well fed. More than 250 items were donated, including sides, salads and desserts ranging from homemade entrees to local orchard fruit. Several individuals participated more than once and spread their generosity over several lunch slots. Lunch bunch volunteers came from nine cities: Kilgore, Henderson, Tyler, Liberty City, Gladewater, Hawkins, Overton, Scroggins and Longview.

After the shows opened, the Guild also provided thirty-two change-over meals for the crews working in the auditorium to strike matinee and erect evening sets.

**Adopt an Artist 2.0: The Roadshow Version**

The Roadshow troupe, who will be arriving soon for rehearsal and then touring shortly thereafter, could use some warm East Texas hospitality also. They will have some evenings when they will be in town and available for a nice meal and time spent with a Guild member and friends or family. This could be at a restaurant or in someone’s home—your ideas are welcome. Please contact Meaghan Simpson if you would like to host one of our Roadshow actors: msullivan@texasshakespeare.com; 903-983-8613.
Notes from Raymond Caldwell, TSF Artistic Director

Thirty-two Years Later

When the Festival was first proposed in 1986, area citizens were intrigued by the prospect of seeing an original play based on local history, and their response to The Daisy Bradford Three was so enthusiastic that the Festival performed it for seven consecutive years. That play about the discovery of the East Texas oilfield was so popular came as no surprise, but the fact that the two Shakespeare plays (Twelfth Night and A Midsummer Night's Dream) played to sold-out houses as well that year was both encouraging and unexpected. More than one person, upon hearing that we were planning to start a Shakespeare Festival, voiced concern, saying such things as “A Shakespeare Festival in East Texas? Are you out of your mind?”

I must confess that I frequently asked myself the same question. But the small towns of Ashland, Oregon, and Cedar City, Utah, with populations no larger than Kilgore, both created Shakespeare Festivals that eventually became their state’s most popular tourist attractions. If it happened there, then why not here? Kilgore is a college town filled with people who are proud of their unique history and eager to support events that attract visitors. The same can be said of Longview, Tyler, Marshall, Pittsburg, Carthage, Nacogdoches, Jacksonville, and Athens – all college towns – and Henderson, Gladewater, Gilmer, Palestine, and many other small towns throughout East Texas produce or support a variety of arts-related events. Why wouldn’t a professional theater company producing high-quality performances of classic plays appeal to the entire region, if Kilgore College was willing to fund the initial effort?

Fortunately, the College was willing. Since 1986, the Festival has depended on the generosity of Kilgore College to survive. Without their willingness to let TSF use the Van Cliburn Theater and the Festival Center free of charge, including all utilities, maintenance, and insurance, as well as providing discounted dorm fees, custodial services, and payroll and purchasing offices, the Festival would come to an immediate end. Then, of course, Kilgore College also pays the salaries and benefits of both Raymond Caldwell and John Dodd, the only two TSF staff members for the first 28 years of the Festival. Matthew and Meaghan Simpson, who joined the Festival four years ago as full-time employees, are paid from a grant provided by the TSF Foundation.

The Festival has grown slowly, one year at a time, into one of the most respected professional theaters in the country. For the past five years, TSF has attracted audience members from more than 40 states, over 150 towns in Texas, and at least 7 foreign countries, and it has become a major summer tourist attraction for Kilgore. It has employed more than 1,700 theater artists from all 50 states and several countries, including dozens of actors, designers, producers, playwrights, professors, and others who have achieved national recognition. The appeal of the Festival is such that each year more than 2,000 theater artists audition or interview for one of the 90 positions available. During the past 32 years, at least 250,000 people have attended a TSF performance. It is no exaggeration to say that the Texas Shakespeare Festival is a valuable cultural and economic asset to Kilgore College, the City of Kilgore, and the entire East Texas Region.

The Festival regularly sells more than 95% of all available seats each season (last summer we sold 99.2%), and with the generous contributions to the Foundation from several major donors, foundations, and individuals, TSF has been able to end the past seven seasons without a deficit – a somewhat rare and admirable achievement for any live theater organization.

One of the Festival’s most loyal supporters has often called the Festival “The Miracle on Henderson Boulevard,” and in many ways she is absolutely correct. I am often asked if I had any idea in 1986 that the Festival would evolve into what it has become, and my answer is “No, not at all. I hoped it would last beyond two or three years, but I could not have predicted that it would be thriving a third of a century later!” It has been an exciting, challenging, joyful, uncertain, fulfilling, complex, but overall magical ride. The College, the Foundation, the Guild, the City, the surrounding communities, and every single loyal patron have played major roles in creating the success of the Festival, not to mention the artists who have shared their talents with us and the irreplaceable John Dodd, along with Meaghan and Matthew.

A “miracle?” Yes, I think so. A dream-come-true? Absolutely. And with your continued encouragement and support, this “miraculous dream” will continue to thrive for at least another 33 years! Thank you!

It’s a Wonderful Life: On The Radio

The most wonderful time of the year will soon be upon us, and with it comes the return of the holiday classic, It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, presented by the Texas Shakespeare Festival. In this unique radio play version, the actors portray multiple roles and use microphones in the style of a 1940’s radio drama. This lively holiday adaptation is an inventive twist on a classic story that will surely get you in the Christmas spirit.

All performances will be held in the Texas Shakespeare Festival’s Upstairs Space, located at 815 Houston Street in Kilgore, Texas. Because seating is limited, a reservation is required.

PERFORMANCE DATES:
Friday, December 8th at 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 9th at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 pm

TICKET PRICE:
$20, General Admission
Tickets go on sale October 15th at http://texasshakespeare.tix.com
Join the Green Group—for Three Reasons

If you have not yet joined the “Green Group” by signing up to receive The Stratford Tribune newsletter via email rather than through regular postal service, please consider doing it today for three reasons: (1) it saves the Guild substantial cost in printing and postage; (2) it allows you to receive a greatly enhanced version of the newsletter, including full-color pictures; and (3) it includes you on the Festival’s email list, which lets you receive more timely notifications of many TSF activities. And there is a fourth reason, too: it saves trees!

We are dividing the TSF Green Group into two specific groups.
• **Green Group**—You will receive the TSF newsletters *only* via email.
• **Green Group Plus**—You will receive the TSF newsletters via email and occasional correspondence about Festival activities. Examples of these might be info about the Lunch Bunch, TSF Foundation, raffles, and special TSF events, and so forth. These emails might be informative or request help with events, etc. and will not be excessive. *We do not share your email address with other entities.*

When you join the Green Group, please let us know your choice—*Green Group* or *Green Group Plus*.

To join either Green Group, send an email to LoisKnouse@letu.edu. Please be sure to include your name. Sometimes it is difficult to identify you by your email address.

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**Strike Day Dinner**
Monday Night Events
CAITLIN CAVANNAUGH, Roadshow Actor
Caitlin is ecstatic to be back for her third Texas Shakespeare Festival Roadshow. Last year, she played Juliet in Romeo and Juliet, Calpurnia/Desdemona in Shakespeare’s Greatest Hits, and Pie-Pan in The Princess and the Players. She has also spent three summer seasons with Texas Shakespeare Festival, in productions including Carousel, The Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Man of La Mancha, My Fair Lady, and Noises Off. Caitlin is a Chicago-based actor who works regionally, most recently at Theatre at the Center in Indiana (Big River) and Purple Rose Theatre in Michigan (Harvey), where she is a Resident Artist. Internationally, she has performed in the Sabanci International Theatre Festival in Adana, Turkey and studied at the Moscow Art Theatre School (Certificate in acting). She is a proud graduate of Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting. She is incredibly grateful to the entire TSF family!

CHRISTOPHER BERNARD, Roadshow Actor
Christopher Bernard is thrilled to be working with the Texas Shakespeare Festival again after closing last season as an acting intern. He is a graduate of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa and holds a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts degree in musical theatre. This fall he performed in Footloose at Old Creamery Theatre in Amana, Iowa. After the Roadshow he plans to move back to the Minneapolis area. Christopher would like to thank his friends and family for their support!
KENDRA EMMETT-GOLDWASSER, Roadshow Tour Manager / Stage Manager
Kendra holds a Master of Letters in Shakespeare and performance from Mary Baldwin University and a Bachelor of Science degree in theatre from Indiana Wesleyan University. This is Kendra’s first season with Texas Shakespeare Festival. Most recently, Kendra was the Assistant Tour Manager and Understudy for the 2017-18 Wicked Folly Tour and Assistant Tour Manager and Swing/Understudy for the American Shakespeare Center’s 2016-17 Hungry Hearts Tour. Favorite past credits include Fan and Mrs. Cratchit in A Christmas Carol and Julia (swing) in The Two Gentlemen of Verona at the American Shakespeare Center; Imogen (understudy) in Cymbeline with Sweet Wag Shakespeare; and stage manager and dramaturg for Minnetrista’s Faeries, Sprites and Lights in Muncie, Indiana. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Hoosier Shakes in Marion, Indiana.

JOY YVONNE JONES, Roadshow Actor
Joy Yvonne Jones is a proud Texan and over the past few years she has worked all over the world. From a commercial for Japan Tobacco in Okinawa to Helena in the Texas Shakespeare Festival Roadshow’s adaptation of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. She has made appearances in CBS’s Under the Dome and spoken verse on the Alley Theatre stage in Houston. Joy is a graduate from the Guthrie Theatre Bachelor of Fine Arts Actor Training Program at the University of Minnesota. She is currently in the process of taking over the world in the name of Girl Power.
CHRISTOPHER L. MARTIN, Roadshow Actor
Christopher, is a recent graduate from the Professional Actor Training Program at Western Illinois University where he received his Masters of Fine Arts degree, and is a Detroit born actor, musician, and teaching artist. Christopher received his Bachelors of Arts degree in theatre performance from Western Michigan University. Previous theatre credits include: Medvedenko in The Seagull, Pedant/Nathaniel in The Taming of the Shrew, Lepidus in Julius Caesar, Martin Luther King Jr. in The Mountaintop, Martin Van Buren/Black Fox in Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Fighting Prawn/Grempkin in Peter and the Starcatcher, Man # 1 in Songs for a New World, Christian in Ruined, Chebutikin in When Johnny Comes Marching Home, and Cornwall in King Lear. Christopher is extremely excited to join the company at Texas Shakespeare Festival this fall.

STEPHEN SHORE, Roadshow Actor
Stephen is honored to return to Texas Shakespeare Festival for his second Roadshow Tour. TSF ROADSHOW credits: Tybalt, Peter and Paris in Romeo and Juliet; Hamlet and Decius in Shakespeare's Greatest Hits; King Hector and Ranzbert in The Princess and the Players. New York credits: John in Smoke at T. Schreiber Studios; Borachio in Much Ado About Nothing, with The Fools & Kings Project; Lucentio in The Taming of the Shrew and Benvolio in Romeo and Juliet with Barefoot Shakespeare Company; Benjamin in Lost in Space with The WhiteListed Theatre Company. Regional credits: Tinman in The Wizard of Oz, Man 3 in 35 MM: A Musical Exhibition, Johnny Cash in Million Dollar Quartet, Frank-N-Furter in The Rocky Horror Show, and Exeter in Henry V at the Roxy Regional Theatre Company; Cloten in Cymbeline and Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet at Virginia Shakespeare Festival; Slim in Of Mice And Men with Cardinal Stage Company; Narrator/Mysterious Man in Into the Woods, Stage Manager in Our Town, Le Bret in Cyrano de Bergerac, and Jim Cullen in The Legend of Jim Cullen with Heartwood Regional Theater Company; Feste in Illyria: A Twelfh Night Musical and Balthasar in Much Ado About Nothing at Georgia Shakespeare Festival. A proud graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in drama. He currently resides in New York City. Stephen would like to thank his Mom, Nana and Grace for all their love and support. For Dad. www.StephenTShore.com
JASON SHORES, Roadshow Actor

Jason, completed his first season with the Texas Shakespeare Festival in 2017, where he played Don Pedro in *Much Ado about Nothing* and Ragueneau in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Jason is thrilled to be back for the Roadshow in the Fall of 2017. A native of Minnesota, Jason came to theatre late in life and has fallen in love with every aspect. Jason recently completed his Master of Fine Arts degree in acting at Western Illinois University where he appeared as Prospero in *The Tempest* and Mrs. Bumbrake in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. 