

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

Almost Here!

From Guild President Linda Crabtree

As we prepare this summer 2024 issue of the Stratford Tribune, our company is beginning to arrive for the season. It's such an exciting time for all of us who "live and breathe" for TSF! The amount of activity around the Festival Center and the Theater is electrifying! The new season is awe-inspiring and diverse; we look forward to every show with great anticipation. We're also thrilled to be welcoming back for the summer some of our favorite people – those we've gotten to know in the Company, as well as those of you who are

drawn to us from far and wide to experience all that TSF and Kilgore have to offer.

It will be another great summer, and I sincerely hope you have your tickets and are making plans to join us as often as possible. In addition to the four main plays, *Tinker Bell*, *Jane Eyre*, Chinese Theater Night and the ever-incredible Talent Show promise additional opportunities to see unique and different styles. Don't miss a thing! The unmatched East Texas hospitality of Kilgore awaits your arrival!

There will be a Guild table at each and every event with someone willing and able to answer any questions you might

have on arrival at the Theater or the Texan. A renewal letter will be sent to you in early June inviting you to renew your Guild membership for next year either with the form included or online.

We sincerely hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity and continue your support, for which we are so very grateful.

If we haven't met you in person yet, please say hello to your Guild Board members when you see us at the Theater. We all wear name tags and would love to meet you – you already know we have something in common!

See you at the Theater!

SUMMER 2024



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The Guild Is 30 Years Old!

Texas Shakespeare Festival

Eight years after the founding of the Festival in 1986, the TSF Guild was organized at the request of Raymond Caldwell to assist the Festival staff with volunteerism but primarily to offer warm East Texas hospitality to the Festival Company. The steering committee who formed the Guild included Delisa Barbee, Sue Brown, Amanda Nobles, Martha Rorschach and Ellen Watson. Then-President of Kilgore College, Dr. J. Frank Thornton, suggested the need for a foundation to support the Guild and

the Festival into the future. The steering committee sought the assistance of Hull Barbee, David Mobley, and Frank Brown to form a foundation, with the Guild as a committee of it. The three men served as the first officers of the Foundation, with the members of the steering committee being the first officers of the Guild. This was the genesis of the Guild, as well as the TSF Foundation—sibling organizations, but the Guild was the first-born.

The first membership drive held in summer 1994 funded the Guild's first year of work in 1995. Enthusiasm for our

Shakespeare Festival ran high. During the first year, 385 people from 26 towns and 5 states signed up to be Charter Members.

Now in 2024, over 700 members from 123 towns, 24 states and 1 foreign country support Guild activities; 65 are Charter Members who have been in the Guild every single year since its 1994 founding. The TSF Guild has become integral to the continuity and success of the Festival. We look forward to continuing this partnership far into the future. It is both a joy and a blessing for all involved.



FOLLOW THE GUILD



The TSF Guild is now officially social—on two platforms. Follow the Guild on

Facebook: [TexasShakesGuild](#)
or on

X: [@TxShakesGuild](#)

We'll be sharing news, photos, and interesting facts that inquiring Festival fans and Guild members might want to know. Follow your Guild today!

We Need a Bunch for Lunch—Sign Up and Help Out!

On Sundays, the Kilgore College cafeteria is closed, so the Company members must use other options. This is one of the needs that the Guild tries to fill. Many of you have been a part of the Lunch Bunch in the past. The organization of it has had to adapt to the varying needs and regulations that have been in place for the last few years. You may have received an email recently through the TSF Green Group asking for volunteers to assist with this large weekly commitment.

Currently we are committed to providing lunch on Sundays. A Sign-Up Genius website link has been set up for just this purpose. If you've never used Sign-Up Genius before, it's super simple.

You'll select your date, enter the item you'd like to bring, add your name, phone and email, and you're done! If it's confusing in any way, please reach out. Note the allergy / diet restrictions

that are mentioned on the site. No nuts, fish, or seafood—and please include a list of the ingredients with your dish. You'll receive an email reminder from Sign-Up Genius (and likely from Kristina, Eileen or Claudia) ahead of your volunteered date(s).

Eileen Kosnik-- ekosnik@mac.com 903-330-1946

Claudia Morgan-Gray-- claudiam@weldonrgray.com
903-646-0506

Kristina Wait-- krissywait@yahoo.com 903-780-8720

Link /QR Code for Lunch Bunch Sign-Up Genius:



Be a Part of the Welcome Crew

We are very excited about the 2024 TSF Season, and Guild members help to make the shows welcoming and comfortable for our patrons!

Will you please consider volunteering as a Door Greeter or Usher for one or more of the performances? Click on the link below; it will take you to SIGN UP GENIUS. Choose your dates, click on SIGN UP, and you're all done! If you have questions or would prefer to sign up by phone, these are your contacts: D'Anna

Yastrebov: 903-931-2571 or
Martha Rutherford 903-576-0105.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As of a couple of weeks ago, all slots have been filled; however, still check the listings to see where you might be needed due to cancellations of volunteers or call D'Anna to let her know you could be on the backup list to be contacted if needed during the season. There are often changes that have to be made after sign-ups.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4CAEAF23A75-48923622-greeters#/>



Membership Matters

From Sharon Noblit,
TSF Guild President-Elect

We sincerely thank all of you who have joined the Guild and renewed your 2024 membership. Soon you will be receiving a membership letter for 2025. Please complete the form with all the required information. Return it in the enclosed envelope with

your check, or you can join online at <http://www.texasshakespeare.com/join-the-guild>. Your renewal now truly helps us when making plans for next year!

Excitement is in the air as tickets are already selling rapidly. I look forward to seeing you in person at the theater coming soon!

TSF Costume Shop



Guild Table at Longview Art Walk

On Thursday, June 6, a few Guild members and three lovely and enthusiastic members of the Company working in Patron Services manned a TSF Guild information table during the summer Art Walk held in downtown Longview. Kate Wells organized the project and was joined by Guild members Louise Cochran, D'Anna Yastrebov, and Martha Dalby. These individuals shared information about both the Guild and the Festival season plays with any passersby who came near!

New Facilities a "Game Changer" for Scenic Designer and Crew

This year scenic construction is taking place in a "new" facility provided by Kilgore College in the Bert Woodruff Center, complete with "the creature comforts of a roof over [our] heads, adequate restroom facilities, and the magic allure of air conditioning," according to Scenic Designer and Assistant Production Manager Meghan Potter. Potter says that they are ahead of schedule for the scenery that they can provide to the cast for the first round of tech rehearsals and that "the crew has a pep in their step we've never witnessed this late in the build." Many Guild

members have witnessed the logistical and weather-related challenges faced in the past by crew members creating the wonderful scenery and props. Often these creations took place outdoors, where those involved were subject to East Texas heat and humidity, as well as unpredictable thunderstorms. "You don't realize how much brain power and energy you use trying not to succumb to heat stroke," Potter said. Kudos to Kilgore College for working with the Festival to provide these much improved conditions for scenic creation.



Guild Helps with New Lighting Equipment for Theater and Festival

The Van Cliburn Theater has a new light board system in place for the Festival this summer. Several entities played a part in funding this purchase; one of them was the TSF Guild. We are proud to say that our funds made a substantial contribution toward this essential system. As you attend the plays, know that some of your dues helped provide the equipment for the skilled lighting designers to create with.

Festival Checklist for Guild Members

- ★ **Buy your tickets for the shows!**
(Don't forget about the Talent Show and Chinese Theater Night.)
- ★ **Sign up to greet or usher.**
- ★ **Sign up to participate in Lunch Bunch.**
- ★ **Buy a raffle ticket for the trip to the Cotswolds.**
- ★ **SEE THE SHOWS!**
- ★ **Check out the merchandise in the Stratford Room.**
- ★ **Come to the Strike Day Dinner and Annual Meeting.**
- ★ **Renew your Guild membership for the coming year.**

New and Next for the TSF Foundation: Festival of Trees

No, it's not Christmas in June/July..... but the TSF Foundation is gearing up for our holiday fundraising event Saturday, November 30th. Yes, it is the Saturday after Thanksgiving; it's also going to be during the Kilgore Mingle and Jingle Event. The 1st Annual TSF Festival of Trees will be at the Historic Texan Theater, 201 S Kilgore Street. Please SAVE THE DATE!

We are looking for and inviting individuals and

businesses to use this opportunity to display their creative talents and enter a tree. We will also accept wreath or centerpiece entries. For a mere \$25 entry fee, we'll save your space. Our wonderful event location will accommodate a maximum of 20 trees for the event. We will also accept 15 wreaths and 15 centerpieces for the event. With limited spaces available, don't wait to contact Claudia Morgan Gray ([claudiam@](mailto:claudiam@weldonrgray.com)

weldonrgray.com or 903-646-0506) or Eileen Walsh Kosnik (ekosnik@mac.com or 903-330-1946) for additional information and an application entry form.

In addition to the Festival of Trees, wreaths, and centerpieces, we will also have time for children with Father Christmas. Father Christmas will be present during a specific time frame. As an additional offering, parents will be able to purchase a

sketch of their child, done by artist Lynn Wells.

Festival of Trees will be open to the public for viewing without an entrance fee. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase for those wishing to take their chance to win a raffled tree. The trees will be 25% raffle and 75% Silent Auction so that everyone can participate! More details will be forthcoming.

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!

•**Green Group** — You will receive the TSF newsletters via email and occasional correspondence about Festival activities. Examples of these might be information about the Lunch Bunch, TSF Foundation, raffles, and special TSF events. 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.*

To join the Green Group, send an email to LEKhouse2020@outlook.com. Please be sure to include your name. Sometimes it is difficult to identify you by your email address.



2023—2024 Executive Board

President	Linda Crabtree
President—Elect	Sharon Noblit
Recording Secretary	Ruth Anne Camp
Membership Secretary	Lois Knouse
Treasurer	Louise Cochran
Past President	Karen Peters
Co-VPs—Events	Eileen Kosnik Claudia Morgan-Gray Kristina Wait
Co-VPs—House	Melinda Johnson Martha Rutherford D’Anna Yastrebov
Co-VPs—Communications	Martha Dalby Kate Wells Lynn Wells, Graphic Design Meaghan Simpson
TSF Artistic Director	John Dodd
TSF Managing Director	Matthew Simpson
TSF Associate Artistic Director/ Director of Development	

TSF Teacher and Student Workshop Spaces Still Available

TEXAS *Shakespeare Festival*

Student Acting Workshop

- INSTRUCTION FROM PROFESSIONALS
- TICKETS TO FIVE TSF SHOWS
- HOUSING & MEALS PROVIDED
- CLASSES IN VOICE, MOVEMENT, SHAKESPEARE, AUDITIONING & MORE

JULY 16TH-21ST, 2024



TEXAS *Shakespeare Festival*



Bard & Breakfast Workshop

- EARN 30 CPE HOURS THROUGH REGION 7
- SEE FOUR PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTIONS
- WORK WITH PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORS, DESIGNERS, AND ACTORS

JUNE 27TH-30TH, 2024





WIN

A TRIP FOR 2 TO THE COTSWOLDS!

**Tickets are \$100.
Only 350 tickets will be sold.**

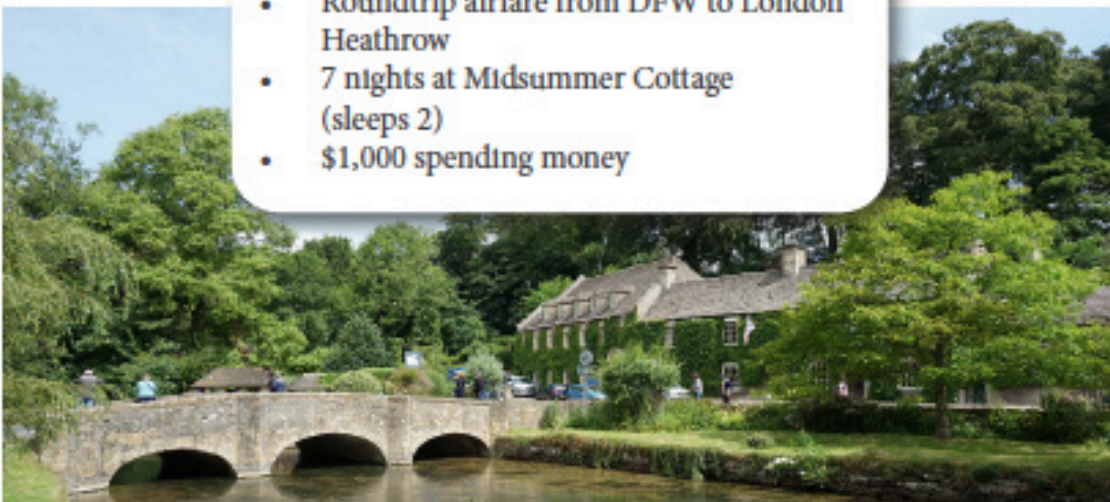


The drawing will be held during intermission of the evening performance on Sunday, 7/28/24. You can get more information or purchase your tickets from a volunteer in the lobby. Credit cards are welcome!

Enjoy a relaxing week in a private cottage in the Cotswolds region of England, which is known for its natural beauty and charming towns. Reservations must be made six months in advance and travel should be completed by August 1, 2025.

The trip includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from DFW to London Heathrow
- 7 nights at Midsummer Cottage (sleeps 2)
- \$1,000 spending money



Peter and the Starcatcher



Julius Caesar



Sweeney Todd



Tinker Bell

A PLAY FOR ALL AGES
BY PATRICK FLYNN
BASED ON THE WORKS OF J.M. BARRIE



JANE EYRE

A STAGED READING
BY CHARLOTTE BRONTË
ADAPTED BY WILLIS HALL



CHINESE THEATRE NIGHT

A stage with golden curtains and a spotlight on a wooden floor. The scene is illuminated with warm, golden light, creating a dramatic and inviting atmosphere. The curtains are pulled back, revealing a dark stage floor that is brightly lit by a central spotlight. The light rays create a sense of depth and focus on the center of the stage.

TALENT SHOWCASE

FEATURING THE 2024 COMPANY
