

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD



FALL 2024

Reminiscing and Recharging

Thinking back on the 2024 TSF season, it is difficult to remember another that has produced any greater shows than we experienced last summer. From the dark drama (and some dark humor) of *Sweeney Todd*, the classic heroic tragedy of *Julius Caesar*, the wonderfully imaginative events and characters of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and finally the banter, betrayal, and restored relationships in *Much Ado about Nothing*, each play presented its own delights, staged at a very high level. Then there was the children’s play *Tinker Bell* and its intersection with the story lines of *Starcatcher*—and its wonderfully improvised crocodile!

The extras were treats also, along with the new experience of having some of those in the Texan Theater downtown. The space of the Texan provided an even more intimate setting for the staged reading of *Jane Eyre* and the annual showcase for Company talents that may go beyond their roles in the Festival! Having our Chinese guests back also brought that great cultural exchange and a chance to renew old acquaintances, plus make new ones.

Now comes the time in the Festival year when the challenging but joyful task of building next season’s delights begins. Just as the Guild celebrated its 30th year of existence last summer, next summer is the 40th season of the Festival itself—hard to believe! There will be

more plans to come, but so far the chosen lineup of the plays sets up excited anticipation. Local history will be featured with the return of *The Daisy Bradford 3*, as well as the great lineup of Shakespearean tragedy and comedy (*Macbeth* and *Twelfth Night*), a modern play (*Steel Magnolias*), and a musical to catch our fancy (*Kiss Me, Kate*). It’s pretty clear that 40 will be looking good for TSF!

As always, we the East Texas audience are the lucky beneficiaries of all this talent and hard work. We can see theatre of Broadway caliber—and all we have to do is drive to Kilgore!

Here’s to Season 40!



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WELCOME, FALL!

From Guild President Linda Crabtree

We are so very excited to have the Roadshow artists here – and they have a completely booked calendar! The Guild is incredibly blessed to have an opportunity to experience a private showing of the productions they are taking “on the road” to schools all over East Texas (see details elsewhere in this newsletter). Over the next few weeks, these talented artists will share a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for theater with hundreds of

students and teachers in a way that inspires them to learn more. If you’re unfamiliar with the Roadshow, I strongly encourage you to watch a very well done 6 minute video (<https://www.texasshakepeare.com/the-roadshow>) which excites me again each time I watch it. It humbles me to think that the activities we support are inspiring the next generation of artists!

Exciting and new this year is the upcoming  Festival of Trees, to be held at the historic

Texan Theater in Kilgore on the weekend after Thanksgiving. Check out the details in this newsletter and join us for a truly beautiful and fun family event! Hope to see you there!

Your TSF Guild is most grateful for your support through the years and is counting on you to continue joining us, as our dues fund the wonderful East Texas hospitality that makes Kilgore a much loved and appreciated destination for our TSF company.

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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!

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TSF Roadshow

The TSF Roadshow is back! This fall, the company will perform *Hamlet* directed by Matthew Simpson and *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits* directed by Jason Richards. TSF alums Sydney Cooper, Nicholas DiPuma, Ptah Garvin, Jesse McFarland, Eliza Pagelle, and Alice Wilkinson will be in the company along with Robin Nipper serving as the Stage Manager. Newcomer Luka Cruz joins for his first season. The company will tour East Texas and end with a residency at the Globe of the Great Southwest in Odessa, Texas.

For the Guild, there will be a performance of the Roadshow's two productions on **Saturday, October 26th, at 2:00 pm** in the Van Cliburn Auditorium. Each performance is approximately 60 minutes. There will be an intermission between shows with a light reception in the lobby and a Q&A to follow. Tickets are \$20 each or \$15 for the padded bench and can be purchased online at texasshakespeare.tix.com or by calling our offices at 903-983-8613.



Member Matters

President-Elect Sharon Noblit

Are you still reflecting on the wonderful TSF Season that consumed our lives during July? Have you renewed your membership for 2025? Your Guild Board is planning a budget for the coming year that includes changeover meals Wednesday through Sunday. Many company members are in a 2:00 matinee performance and then an evening performance. They must eat! Breakfast and lunch are also provided on the weekends because the cafeteria is not open. Our company lives in dorm rooms, and the necessities which YOUR membership dues provide are invaluable!

Highlighters, tabs, and supplies for learning lines are a huge help as well. YOU are a very vital part to making the festival a success.

The Roadshow is here now, and their days are filled completely with visiting and performing for school districts in Texas. Your Guild membership helps to provide their necessities as well. We are looking forward to the 40th Season, which promises to be very special. Thank YOU for making TSF a well-known festival throughout the United States and several foreign countries!!

Community Outreach

On Thursday evening, Oct. 3, Guild Board members Louise Cochran, Martha Dalby, D'Anna Yastrebov, and Kate Wells manned a table at the Longview Art Walk from 5-8 PM. All 100 flyers about next summer's Festival and the new Festival of Trees were given out, and a lot of good conversation was had about the Festival with veteran attendees as well as community members who hadn't heard about it.

The Board is looking for someone to assist with outreach like this—community opportunities to get the word out just like at Art Walk. Contact Communication Co-Chairs Kate Wells or Martha Dalby, or President Linda Crabtree if you are interested in spreading the word about the Festival at area arts events. Kate Wells, katewells23@yahoo.com or Martha Dalby, mdalby8123@gmail.com

Growing the Festival of Trees



The TSF Festival of Trees is a new, family-friendly opportunity to support the Texas Shakespeare Festival. It is a fund-raising project sponsored by the Foundation, but anyone can participate to help TSF. The two-day event will be held in Downtown Kilgore right after Thanksgiving, November 29th and 30th.

Beautifully decorated holiday trees, wreaths, and table decorations will be on display—some available for purchase (via silent auction) and some available to win in a drawing. The event will be free and open to the public, with tickets to enter the drawings available at very reasonable prices. Father Christmas will be there to greet the children (and the young at heart), and local artist Lynn Wells will be doing on-site live portraits that will be available for purchase.

We are seeking businesses and individuals who would like to donate a decorated tree, wreath, or table decoration. This is a great way to spread some holiday joy while also supporting the arts in East Texas.

QUESTIONS? Contact:

Eileen Kosnik

ekosnik@mac.com (903) 330-1956

Claudia Morgan Gray

claudiam@weldonrgray.com (903) 646-0506

Visit the website: www.texasshakespeare.com/festival-of-trees

Entry forms can be found at the website.

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY

Tree Entries

- Trees must be artificial and at least 4 ft. tall.
- You must use a tree stand that can support the weight of your tree.
- All ornaments must be securely attached with floral wire and tops of ornaments (i.e. caps on the ornament balls) must be glued on.
- If your tree has pieces that can be removed, each piece must be wired together.
- An extension cord must be supplied by you for the display.
- Bring a ladder to use when you decorate your tree for display.
- Any gifts submitted with your tree should be displayed under your tree unwrapped.

Wreaths & Table Decorations

- Wreaths must be a minimum of 24" and a maximum of 36" in diameter
- Wreaths & Table Decorations must be artificial
- All ornaments must be securely attached with floral wire
- Extension cord must be supplied for the display if your entry requires electricity
- Include a door hanger with your wreath

IMPORTANT DATES & DETAILS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Thursday, October 31, 2024

PARTICIPANTS' SET-UP:

Tuesday, November 26 and Wednesday, November 27

We work with you to assign you a date and time (between 10 am and 3 pm) for you to bring your entry. You may deliver your item pre-decorated or do the decorating at The Texan; just discuss your needs with the person scheduling the set-up times.

BLITZEN'S BREAKFAST:

November 29th (8:30 - 11 am)

Tree Entry participants and Sponsors will be invited to this celebration. You'll also have an opportunity to purchase trees prior to the event opening to the public!

FESTIVAL OF TREES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Friday, November 29 (11 am - 7 pm) and

Saturday, November 30 (10 am - 6:30 pm)

RAFFLE DRAWINGS & END OF SILENT AUCTION:

Saturday, November 30 (5:30 pm.)

75% of the Trees will be offered via silent auction. The other 25% will be raffled off with tickets available for purchase at the event.

PICK-UP TIME FOR ALL ITEMS PURCHASED OR WON:

November 30 (7 - 9 pm)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Festival of Trees will be open to the public free of charge. Please encourage your friends and family to come see the entries and bring the kids for a visit with Father Christmas!

BE A SPONSOR

- \$10,000 : Logo included with all advertising, print and media. A free Roadshow at the school of your choice. Inclusion in 2025 Playbill in list of Foundation Contributors as well as Festival of Tree Sponsor. Ten invitations to Blitzen's Breakfast preview on November 29th. Two complimentary season's tickets for 2025 season.
- \$5,000: Logo included with all advertising, print and media. A free Roadshow at the school of your choice. Inclusion in 2025 Playbill in list of Foundation Contributors as well as Festival of Tree Sponsor. Eight invitations to Blitzen's Breakfast preview on November 29th
- \$2,500: Logo included with all advertising, print and media. Inclusion in 2025 Playbill in list of Foundation Contributors as well as Festival of Tree Sponsor. Six invitations to Blitzen's Breakfast preview on November 29th.
- \$1,000: Included in all advertising, print and media. Four invitations to Blitzen's Breakfast preview on November 29th. Listed as sponsors in Playbill.
- \$500: Included in all advertising, print and media. Two Invitations to Blitzen's Breakfast preview on November 29th.

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.



2024—2025 Executive Board

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

Twelfth
NIGHT

Steel Magnolias

MACBETH

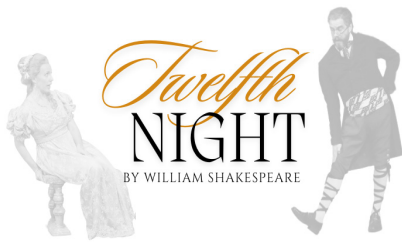
Kiss Me, KATE

THE DAISY BRADFORD 3

The Princess and the Players

SEASON 40

Texas Shakespeare Festival



Twelfth NIGHT

By William Shakespeare

After a shipwreck separates twins Viola and Sebastian, they both embark on a journey to recover and rebuild a new life in Illyria. In order to survive, Viola disguises herself as a man and becomes increasingly mistaken for her brother.

What to Expect: A surprising blend of humor and heart, this is one of Shakespeare's most relatable romantic comedies, featuring a vast array of unforgettable characters all fighting in the name of love!

You'll Love it if you Loved: *Much Ado About Nothing* (2024), *The Comedy of Errors* (2023), *The Taming of the Shrew* (2022)

Rating: PG



Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling

Truvy's salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana is the place to be for all things beauty and all things gossip. In this story made famous by the film of the same name, the women who frequent the salon showcase their friendships and loyalty through the good times and the bad.

What to Expect: Powerhouse performances from an all-female cast, bringing to life characters that will make you laugh and cry.

You'll Love it if you Loved: *Pride & Prejudice* (2023), *Nell Gwynn* (2022), *The Book of Will* (2021)

Rating: PG



MACBETH

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



MACBETH

By William Shakespeare

After three witches proclaim that Macbeth will become King of Scotland, there is nothing that can prevent him from fulfilling his destiny. A tragedy of the highest degree emerges as Macbeth and Lady Macbeth seek the power they feel they deserve.

What to Expect: A haunting and bloody tale of a couple on the quest for power, featuring dynamic performances and some of Shakespeare's most poetic text.

You'll Love it if you Loved: *Julius Caesar* (2024), *Lear* (2023), *Romeo & Juliet* (2021)

Rating: PG-13



SEASON 40

Texas Shakespeare Festival



Kiss Me, KATE

MUSIC & LYRICS BY COLE PORTER
BOOK BY SAM AND BELLA SPEWACK

Kiss Me, KATE

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter
Book by Sam and Bella Spewack

When two divorced performers find themselves starring opposite each other in a musical version of *The Taming of the Shrew*, their egos are centerstage and the past comes back to haunt them as they contend with old feelings resurfacing.

What to Expect: A golden age musical with singing, dancing, humor, and romance. Featuring the songs "So in Love", "Brush up your Shakespeare" and "Too Darn Hot".

You'll Love it if you Loved: *Something Rotten!* (2023), *The Music Man* (2022), *My Fair Lady* (2014)

Rating: PG

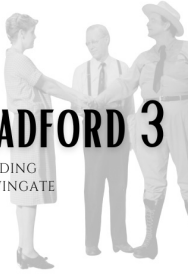


SEASON 40

Texas Shakespeare Festival

THE DAISY BRADFORD 3

A STAGED READING
BY GIFFORD W. WINGATE



THE DAISY BRADFORD 3

a Staged Reading

By Gifford W. Wingate

Experience the play that started it all! This original play, created for the Texas Shakespeare Festival's inaugural season in 1986, tells the story of the discovery of the East Texas oil field.

What to Expect: Historical figures will be brought to life in this true to East Texas tale that tells the day oil gushed from Daisy Bradford's discovery well.

You'll Love it if you Loved: *Jane Eyre* (2024) *Charlotte Collins* (2023, 2022), *The Belle of Amherst* (2018, 2016, 2015)

Rating: PG



The Princess and the Players

A PLAY FOR ALL AGES
BY JASON RICHARDS



The Princess and the Players

A Play for All Ages

By Jason Richards

Once upon a time, Penelope was a sweet (but spoiled) princess. When she is visited by a troupe of actors, they teach her a valuable lesson about kindness and gratitude.

What to Expect: Delightful and zany characters in an energetic performance that is a celebration of Shakespeare!

You'll Love it if you Loved: *Tinker Bell* (2024), *Todrick the Not-So-Terrible* (2023), *The Hog Princess* (2022)

Rating: G

