

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

FALL 2025

Celebrating 40 Years of Artistry, Community, and Dedication

This season marks an extraordinary milestone for the Texas Shakespeare Festival, forty summers of creativity, col-

laboration, and joy. In this issue, we celebrate the people who make the Festival shine: the actors and directors who inspire us, the Guild members whose

hospitality is legendary, and the supporters who ensure the Festival's future for generations to come.



Honoring 40 Years and Investing in the Future

by Gem Meacham

"How far that little candle throws his beams!"

– William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, Act V, Scene 1

In 1986, Raymond Caldwell founded the Texas Shakespeare Festival, lighting a spark that has illuminated East Texas for four decades. In 2021, the Festival established the Raymond

Caldwell Endowment Fund to ensure that this artistic legacy continues for generations to come.

This July, TSF proudly celebrated its 40th summer season. To honor this remarkable milestone, the Foundation has set a goal to raise \$40,000 by year's end. Whether it be \$40, \$400, \$4,000, \$40,000, or any amount in between, we invite donors to

celebrate this shining achievement with a gift to the Caldwell Endowment. Every TSF production continues to shine as a beacon of artistic excellence in East Texas. Give in honor or memory of the person who first brought you to TSF. Give for the future. Give for the long term. Your contribution to the Caldwell Endowment is an investment in the Festival's next 40 years and beyond.

<https://www.texasshakespeare.com/endowment-fund>

Making a Difference

Sharon Noblit, TSF Guild President

There's a reason that the Texas Shakespeare Festival is recognized throughout the United States and abroad. John Dodd, Meaghan Simpson, and Matthew Simpson are masters at selecting

plays and musicals and pairing them with the perfect actors to inspire and delight us, truly making a difference in our lives.

The Festival's 40th season topped all others, featuring many first-time actors in Kilgore. We've all seen *Macbeth*

on stage or in film, but last summer's production — with its remarkable set, lighting, costumes, music, direction, and the actors' connection with the audience — was truly unforgettable.

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Membership Matters

by Martha Dalby, TSF Guild President-Elect

Our fall membership renewal letters have been mailed, and we're delighted by the steady response. Thank you from all of us on the officer board!

Your membership dues make so much of our support for the Festival possible, from helping to fulfill items

on the Festival staff's wish list to providing meals for the Festival company. Our hospitality continues to earn praise each summer, a tradition we can all be proud of. Season after season, the Guild's support remains vital to the Festival's success.

If you haven't yet renewed your

membership, we hope you'll do so soon. If your renewal letter didn't reach you, it's easy to renew online. (See link below.) Thank you for your continued loyalty and enthusiasm. Here's to 40 more years of the Festival and to the Guild that helps it thrive!

<https://www.texasshakespeare.com/join-the-guild>

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FOLLOW THE GUILD



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

Facebook: [TexasShakesGuild](https://www.facebook.com/TexasShakesGuild)
or on

X: [@TxShakesGuild](https://twitter.com/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!

Guild Members in the Community

Board members Louise Cochran and Martha Dalby hosted an information table during ArtWalk Longview on Thursday, Oct. 2. They shared details about upcoming Guild and Festival events, including the Festival of Trees (Nov. 5–8 at Kilgore College) as well as the co-production between the TSF Roadshow



and the Kilgore College Theatre Department. Many friendly ArtWalk visitors stopped by to learn more, including a few of Ms. Dalby's former students!



Making a Difference, *continued from page 1*

This fall, we look forward to The Roadshow, *Little Women*, and the Festival of Trees. I'm already anticipating the 41st season and the opportunity to see *1776* as America celebrates 250 years. Will our favorite actors return next summer? They are our favorites because they've made a difference in our lives just as each of YOU have!!!

Maybe a teacher, movie, or actor once made a difference in your life. Perhaps you've been inspired by performances at Casa Mañana, Bass Hall, or even on Broadway. But what brings you to Kilgore each summer for the Texas Shakespeare Festival?

Please join me in spreading the word about the Festival and the joy of being a Guild member because that, too, makes a difference in people's lives.

One starfish can make a difference, and you'll learn more about that in our spring newsletter.



The Texas Shakespeare Festival Roadshow is back!

This fall, the company will present *Julius Caesar* directed by Matthew Simpson and *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits* directed by Jason Richards.

The acting company features Nicholas DiPuma, Ptah Garvin, Destiny Gore, Eliza Pagelle, Keenan Pasqua, Sam Perry, and Gianna Porfano, with Amber Driver serving as Stage Manager.

The troupe will tour East Texas and conclude with a residency at the Globe of the Great Southwest in Odessa, Texas.

Little Women Co-Production

This fall, the Texas Shakespeare Festival joins forces once again with Kilgore College Theatre to produce *Little Women* Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic. Adapted for the stage by Kate Hamill, this fresh interpretation explores identity, societal expectations, and the challenges of growing up, particularly for women.

Co-directed by Meaghan and Matthew Simpson, this production features TSF favorites performing alongside Kilgore College theatre majors. Performances will take place December 4–7 in the Van Cliburn Auditorium on the Kilgore College campus.

Tickets:

\$20 – TSF patrons

\$10 – Students

\$5 – Groups of 10 or more

To purchase tickets, visit

<https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/TexasShakespeare/4442>

To reserve a group, call (903) 983-8613 or email

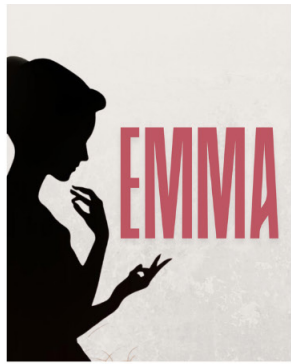
info@texasshakespeare.com

Dates & Venue
Wednesday, November 5—Saturday, November 8
Devall Ballroom, 1116 Broadway Blvd, Kilgore College

Hours
Thursday & Friday, 9:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 9:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

For More Info & Tickets: www.texasshakespeare.com/festival-of-trees
Questions? Contact: Eileen Kosnick: 903-330-1946 or Claudia Morgan Gray: 903-646-0506

As the Texas Shakespeare Festival celebrates 40 years of artistic excellence, we are reminded that each act of generosity — each membership, meal, or donation — keeps the light shining. Together, we make a difference.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare
Four Athenian lovers and a group of amateur actors are caught in the chaos of the fairy world, led by the mischievous Puck. Reality slips away and fantasy takes center stage in this enchanting journey of love and discovery.

What to Expect: Shakespeare's perfect blend of hilarity and carefully crafted chaos—love triangles, larger-than-life characters, and mischievous fairies!
You'll Love it if You Loved: *Twelfth Night* (2025), *Much Ado About Nothing* (2024), *The Comedy of Errors* (2023)
Rating: PG

Emma

By Jane Austen, adapted by Jon Jory
Matchmaker Emma Woodhouse is determined to find her newest "project," but her well-intentioned meddling leads to unexpected lessons in love and self-awareness.

What to Expect: A witty, female-centered story with elegant Regency-era costumes and language. A crisp, modern-feeling adaptation of Austen's timeless classic.
You'll Love it if You Loved: *Steel Magnolias* (2025), *Pride & Prejudice* (2023), *The Book of Will* (2021)
Rating: PG

Hamlet

By William Shakespeare
Haunted by grief and betrayal, Prince Hamlet learns that his uncle murdered his father and vows revenge. His pursuit of justice becomes a powerful exploration of morality, madness, and fate.

What to Expect: Shakespeare's most iconic tragedy, rich with unforgettable soliloquies and deep emotional complexity.
You'll Love it if You Loved: *Macbeth* (2025), *Julius Caesar* (2024), *Lear* (2023)
Rating: PG-13

1776

Book by Peter Stone; Music and Lyrics by Sherman Edwards
This Tony Award-winning musical captures the debates, doubts, and determination that led to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
What to Expect: A lively, inspiring look at the birth of a nation—filled with sharp humor, stirring songs, and spirited performances. The perfect celebration for America's 250th anniversary!
You'll Love it if You Loved: *Kiss Me, Kate* (2025), *Sweeney Todd* (2024), *Something Rotten!* (2023)
Rating: PG

The Reluctant Dragon

By Mary Hall Surface, based on the book by Kenneth Grahame
In the village of Guildermere, a gentle, poetry-loving dragon is wrongly blamed for the town's troubles. When Saint George arrives to slay the "beast," everyone must rethink what it truly means to be brave.
What to Expect: A heartwarming tale of unlikely friendship and understanding—perfect for audiences of all ages.
You'll Love it if You Loved: *The Princess and the Players* (2025), *Tinker Bell* (2024), *Todrick the Not-so-Terrible* (2023)
Rating: G



Texas Shakespeare Festival
AT KILGORE COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATES!

NOV 5	FESTIVAL OF TREES PREVIEW PARTY 📍 DEVALL BALLROOM ON KILGORE COLLEGE CAMPUS	
NOV 6-8	FESTIVAL OF TREES 📍 DEVALL BALLROOM ON KILGORE COLLEGE CAMPUS	
NOV 18-23	ROADSHOW AT ODESSA SHAKESPEARE 📍 GLOBE OF THE GREAT SOUTHWEST	
DEC 4	LITTLE WOMEN, 10:30 A.M. AND 7:30 P.M. 📍 VAN CLIBURN AUDITORIUM ON KILGORE COLLEGE CAMPUS	
DEC 5	LITTLE WOMEN, 10:30 A.M. AND 7:30 P.M. 📍 VAN CLIBURN AUDITORIUM ON KILGORE COLLEGE CAMPUS	
DEC 6	LITTLE WOMEN, 2:00 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M. 📍 VAN CLIBURN AUDITORIUM ON KILGORE COLLEGE CAMPUS	
DEC 7	LITTLE WOMEN, 2:00 P.M. 📍 VAN CLIBURN AUDITORIUM ON KILGORE COLLEGE CAMPUS	

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 LEKnouse2020@outlook.com. Please be sure to include your name. Sometimes it is difficult to identify you by your email address.



2025—2026 Executive Board

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



Purchase tickets: <https://www.texasshakespeare.com/festival-of-trees>

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for an exclusive glimpse at all the items being raffled and auctioned on the eve of the Festival of Trees! This festive Preview Party will provide early access, allowing you to walk and view the trees, wreaths, holiday decor, and artisan booths. If you see something you like, you can pay the "BUY NOW" price and guarantee it will be yours.

Tickets are \$20 and will include mulled cider and both savory and sweet charcuterie cups.

Date: Wednesday November 5th

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

Location: Devall Ballroom on the campus of Kilgore College

**MEET THE
2025 FALL
ROADSHOW TEAM**



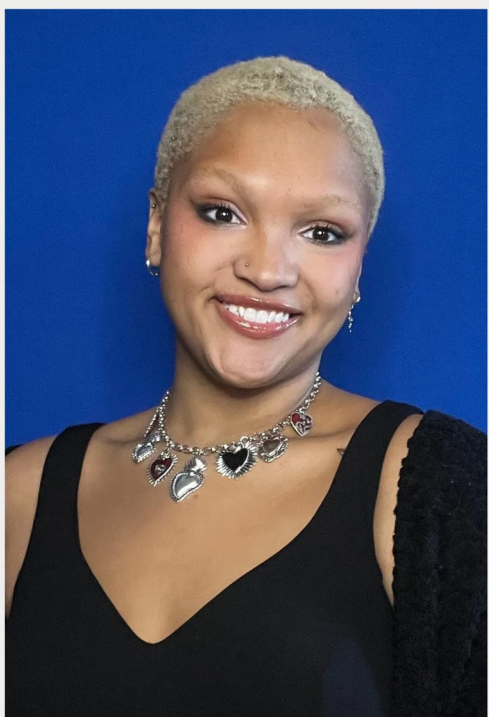
Nicholas DiPuma



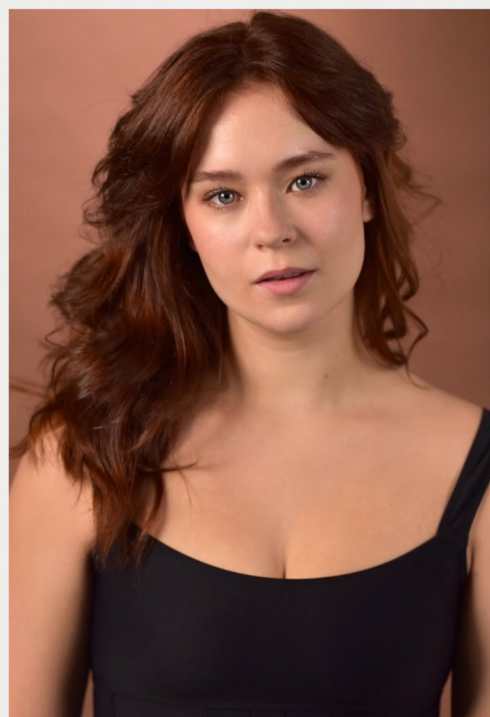
Ptah Garvin



Destiny Gore



Eliza Pagelle



Keenan Pasqua



Sam Perry



Gianna Porfano

