

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

SUMMER 2026

The 41st Season: Making a Difference

Sharon Noblit, TSF Guild President

The company arrives as strangers, but the TSF Guild will see to it that, when they leave, they have become friends and family. We will marvel at the acting, singing, and dancing they have learned in just six weeks. We will be in awe that these individuals from across the U.S. have come together in Kilgore, Texas, helping to put the town on the map for theatre.

As a Guild member, you have the opportunity to help feed the company on Sundays, host a Monday night event, or adopt an individual or group to take out to eat, attend an event, and spend time getting to know them. Hospitality can be as simple as a smile, a listening ear, or

a hug. For some, Kilgore is a culture shock in sharp contrast to the hustle and bustle of their everyday lives. But when they leave after the Strike Dinner, know what a difference YOU have made in their lives, just as they have made in ours.

For returning company members, it will feel like coming home to friends and family. For our new members, I know you will help them to feel welcome. Can you feel the excitement in the air? Have you seen the decorated window downtown at Downtown D'lites? Have you bought your tickets? July is the month that makes a difference in Kilgore, Texas.

Are you ready? You walk up the sidewalk, and a TSF Guild volunteer greeter

welcomes you and gives you a Guild member sticker as you enter the lobby. Soon, the doors open; your ticket is taken, and a TSF Guild volunteer usher helps you to find your seat. Meaghan Simpson welcomes everyone and asks that phones be silenced or turned off, and the excitement builds.

Every Guild member can volunteer, and it takes more than 200 volunteers for the 41st season. It's here. The stage is set; the lights dim, and the love of theatre begins.

It's Opening Night, and TSF Guild members make a huge difference in the lives of adults, teens, and children alike.

I'll see you at the theatre!



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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!

Now Is the Time for All TSF Supporters to Come to the Aid of Their Guild

Martha Dalby, President-Elect/Membership

In the cycle of the TSF year, we are deep into the most active season. The Company is here; both construction and rehearsals have begun; and the joyful, grueling, rewarding work of building a season is underway. It is also the season when the Guild is most needed. We have given funds to help purchase a new assisted listening system for the theater; we greet and usher patrons as they arrive at the theater; we staff the Guild table in the lobby; we provide a noon meal for the

Company on Sunday when the cafeteria is closed; we support the breakfast supplies each day; we feed the changeover crew when matinees begin; we purchase our season tickets (and maybe see one or more shows more than once!)

Most of these activities are supported by our dues to the Guild. As of "press time" for this newsletter, we have 723 members, coming from 115 locations, including China! The opening of ticket sales has brought larger numbers of new and renewing memberships as

people use the convenience of the online renewal process to gain Guild membership.

To join the Guild, visit <https://www.texasshakespeare.com/join-the-guild>. The option to join will also appear when you purchase your tickets online. A renewal-by-mail appeal went out earlier this spring. You can also become a member as you visit the theater this summer; someone at the Guild table can assist you. Whatever method you choose,

See TSF Supporters, page 2

Adopt-an-Artist

Gem Meacham

Our TSF company comes from all over the U.S. Hosting them is a unique way for Guild members to welcome and show appreciation for the contributions of these talented individuals.

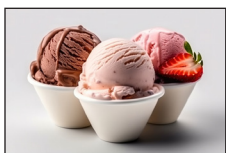
Adopt-an-Artist gives you the opportunity to invite two or more artists to enjoy your own brand of East Texas hospitality. You choose the occasion and venue for lunch, dinner, a special event in your home, or an outing to area restaurants or attractions.

It is an exciting way to get to know our hard-working company members as individuals and make lifelong friends.

If you would like to participate, contact Val Winkelman at vjwquick@aol.com.

Talent Showcase—with Ice Cream!

Linda Crabtree, Past TSF Guild President



One of the most delightful TSF traditions is the Talent Showcase, where we get to see members of the Company step into completely different roles. You can expect singing, perhaps a bit of dancing, and

plenty of laughter—often from the most surprising sources. Between performances, the Guild will host an ice cream social, where guests can enjoy a treat with all the toppings while mingling with fellow patrons. It's also a wonderful opportunity to meet some of our fabulous artists in a relaxed and festive setting.

On Wednesday, July 22, there will be two performances at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Grab your tickets at <http://bit.ly/4e5A15c> Enjoy the show!

April Artwalk in Longview

Officers Sharon Noblit, Martha Dalby and Louise Cochran shared information with April Artwalk visitors about the upcoming season and TSF Guild membership opportunities. The next Longview Art Walk will take place on Thursday, June 4th at 4:30-8:00.



TSF Supporters, cont. from page 1

please do step up and be counted as one of the loyal supporters of our local theatrical treasure. You will be aiding a very worthy artistic endeavor – and we thank ALL of you who are already members for the upcoming season. You are one of that legion of stalwart supporters who have helped make things happen through the TSF Guild for over 30 years. Thanks and thanks and ever thanks!

Hope to see you at the shows –

TSF Lunch Bunch

Claudia Morgan-Gray, Co-VP Events

On Sunday, May 17, the TSF Guild sponsored a dinner to welcome both returning and new members of the 2026 Company. In a wonderful display of Southern hospitality, approximately 90 cast and crew members enjoyed a baked potato bar with a generous assortment of toppings, followed by a delicious array of desserts. After dinner, everyone gathered in the Van Cliburn Theater for the Design Presentation.

The Guild's Sunday meals are an important tradition and a meaningful way to support the Company throughout the season. Those interested in helping provide meals on Sundays are invited to sign up through SignUpGenius: <https://bit.ly/3Psd7Nr>

Please select a date and preferred food item.

For the safety of Company members, **no nuts and no seafood, no shellfish and no fish**, may be brought to campus due to severe allergies.

Come join us!

Calling All TSF Guild House Volunteers!

D'Anna Yastrebov, VP, House

Several performances need Greeters and Ushers.

TSF hosts approximately 40 performances each season, which requires nearly 200 volunteer shifts. Your help makes a meaningful difference in creating a welcoming experience for our patrons.

You may choose from a variety of volunteer positions and sign up for as many dates and times as you would like.

Greeters

- Arrive at the theater 45 minutes before the scheduled performance.
- Check in at the Guild Table to receive your name tag and Guild stickers.
- Stand near your assigned entrance and warmly greet patrons as they arrive.
- Offer stickers as appropriate and answer basic questions.

Ushers

- Arrive at the theater 45 minutes before the scheduled performance.
- Dress in a white shirt or blouse and black pants.
- Check in at the Guild Table to receive your name tag.
- When the house opens, direct patrons to their seats in your assigned area.

How to Sign Up

Use this link to register at SignUpGenius:

<https://www.bit.ly/4vbUb4z>

Select your day, time, and volunteer position, then enter your contact information. You will receive a reminder email the week of your scheduled shift.

Guild House volunteer positions are a wonderful way to help set a warm and welcoming tone for each performance and share in the excitement of all that TSF brings to our East Texas community.

Come join us!

2026
SEASON 41
Texas Shakespeare Festival

NOW ON SALE

Learn More & Purchase Tickets at www.texasshakespeare.com

Festival of Trees: Save the Dates

Eileen Kosnik, Co-VP, Events

We will celebrate our third annual Festival of Trees fundraiser on Thursday, November 5, with a preview party. The event will open to the public on Friday, November 6, and Saturday, November 7. Save the dates — more details to follow! Last year, we raised \$17,000 to help support TSF programs.

We are excited to host this year's event at Kilgore College's Woodruff Adult Education Center, which provides more space and better visibility.

Family Fun & Holiday Experiences

On Saturday morning, we will offer a free children's Teddy Bear event featuring story reading and refreshments. Plan to bring your favorite little person and enjoy their excitement.

Artisan booths will also be available for early holiday shopping, offering a variety of unique items for the season.

Get Involved

If you are an artisan and would like to participate, please use this link: <https://www.texasshakespeare.com/festival-of-trees>

You may also use the same link if you would like to donate a tree, wreath, or décor item. Choose the ornament that matches your interest.

We are also seeking sponsors or donations of gift cards to help decorate a special raffle tree. Gift cards of any amount are welcome and must not expire before the end of 2026.

Gift cards may be:

- dropped off at the theater in the basket provided at the Guild table in the lobby,
- or mailed to:
Eileen Kosnik, 1311 W. Oakwood St., Tyler, TX 75702

WIN

A TRIP FOR 2 TO Athens, Greece!

Chances are \$100.
Only 375 chances will be sold.

The drawing will be held during intermission of the evening performance on Sunday, 7/26/26. You can purchase your chances in the lobby or online. Credit cards are welcome!

With this season's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in mind, we're thrilled to offer a trip to Athens, home of the Acropolis with the Parthenon, Erechtheion, and the Temple of Athena Nike. There, you can explore the ancient sites and museums, and then wander through the city's many unique and charming neighborhoods. With your provided spending money, you could take a day-cruise on the Saronic Gulf to visit the islands. Reservations must be made four to six months in advance. Travel should be completed by August 1, 2027.

The trip includes:

- Roundtrip airfare from DFW to Athens
- Six nights in the fabulous, centrally located Royal Olympic Hotel
- \$1,000 spending money

Purchase your chance using this link: <http://bit.ly/437kTzI>

Remembering Kathy Barber

John Dodd, TSF Managing Director



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Kathy Barber on Sunday, April 13. In 1989, Kathy joined the Kilgore College Theatre faculty, and from 1989 to 1998, she served as Associate Artistic Director for the Texas Shakespeare Festival. Before returning to KC and her first love, teaching, she worked professionally on Broadway, in regional theatre, and in grand opera.

Kathy held a master's degree in theatre from Stephen F. Austin State University and pursued MFA studies in directing at the University of Houston under the guidance of Sidney Berger. She studied directing with Bobby Lewis and Vinnette Carroll and trained at the Actor's Studio with Harold Clurman and Gerald Freedman, whom she assisted for two years in New York.

She served as co-director of the pre-Broadway production of *The Three Musketeers*, directed by Mark Bramble. Kathy also served as assistant director for the Broadway production of *West Side Story*, directed by Gerald Freedman and Jerome Robbins, as well as *The Grand Tour*, starring Joel Grey. Her regional theatre work included assistant directing productions of *Twelfth Night* and *Julius Caesar* at the American Shakespeare Festival, as well as *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet* at the Houston Shakespeare Festival, all directed by Gerald Freedman.

Her Texas Shakespeare Festival directing credits included *The Daisy Bradford 3*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Camelot*, *1776*, and *Twelfth Night*. Kathy also served as fight choreographer for TSF productions of *Richard III* and *King Lear*.

Our thoughts are with Kathy's family, friends, colleagues, students, and all who had the privilege of working with her and calling her a friend.

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.



2026—2027 Executive Board

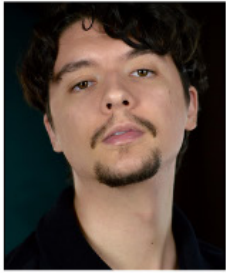
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| President | Sharon Noblit |
| President-Elect | Martha Dalby |
| Recording Secretary | Lana Higginbotham |
| Membership Secretary | Lois Knouse |
| Treasurer | Louise Cochran |
| Past President | Linda Crabtree |
| Co-VPs, Events | Eileen Kosnik Claudia Morgan-Gray |
| VP, House | 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 |

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|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| ORDER TICKETS ONLINE at www.texasshakespeare.com | | TICKETS GO ON SALE May 1 for Guild members online May 8 for the public online May 26 at the Ticket Office and by phone. | | June 25 Opening Night with talkback <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 7:30 p.m. | June 26 Opening Night with talkback EMMA @ 7:30 p.m. | June 27 Opening Night with talkback HAMLET @ 7:30 p.m. |
| June 28 Opening Night with talkback 1776 @ 7:30 p.m. | June 29 CLOSED | June 30 | July 1 | July 2 1776 @ 2:00 p.m. <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 7:30 p.m. | July 3 EMMA @ 2:00 p.m. HAMLET @ 7:30 p.m. | July 4 1776 @ 2:00 p.m. <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 7:30 p.m. |
| July 5 EMMA @ 2:00 p.m. HAMLET @ 7:30 p.m. | July 6 CLOSED | July 7 <i>Dear Jack</i> @ 2:00 p.m. <i>Dear Louise</i> @ 7:30 p.m. | July 8 | July 9 HAMLET @ 2:00 p.m. 1776 @ 7:30 p.m. | July 10 <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 2:00 p.m. EMMA @ 7:30 p.m. | July 11 HAMLET @ 2:00 p.m. 1776 @ 7:30 p.m. |
| July 12 <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 2:00 p.m. EMMA @ 7:30 p.m. | July 13 CLOSED | July 14 | July 15 <i>The Reluctant DRAGON</i> @ 10:00 a.m. CHINESE THEATRE NIGHT @ 7:30 p.m. | July 16 <i>The Reluctant DRAGON</i> @ 10:00 a.m. EMMA @ 2:00 p.m. HAMLET @ 7:30 p.m. | July 17 <i>The Reluctant DRAGON</i> @ 10:00 a.m. 1776 @ 2:00 p.m. <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 7:30 p.m. | July 18 <i>The Reluctant DRAGON</i> @ 10:00 a.m. EMMA @ 2:00 p.m. HAMLET @ 7:30 p.m. |
| July 19 1776 @ 2:00 p.m. <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 7:30 p.m. | July 20 CLOSED | July 21 | July 22 TALENT @ 2:00 p.m. TALENT @ 7:30 p.m. | July 23 <i>The Reluctant DRAGON</i> @ 10:00 a.m. <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 2:00 p.m. EMMA @ 7:30 p.m. | July 24 <i>The Reluctant DRAGON</i> @ 10:00 a.m. HAMLET @ 2:00 p.m. 1776 @ 7:30 p.m. | July 25 <i>The Reluctant DRAGON</i> @ 10:00 a.m. <i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM</i> @ 2:00 p.m. EMMA @ 7:30 p.m. |
| July 26 HAMLET @ 2:00 p.m. 1776 @ 7:30 p.m. | Ticket Office Hours: 2:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. Tuesday-Saturday Ticket Office is closed on Sunday and Monday Texas Shakespeare Festival Ticket Office (903) 983-8601 | | SCAN THIS CODE to learn more about the Texas Shakespeare Festival | | Don't Forget JOIN the TSF Guild or renew your membership today, and DONATE to the TSF Foundation! Order Tickets and join the Guild Online @ www.texasshakespeare.com | |

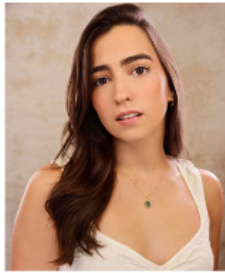


HAMLET

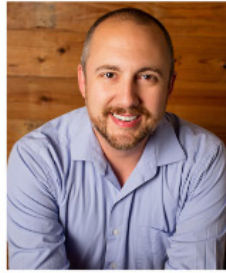
FEATURING



HAMLET
NICHOLAS DIPUMA



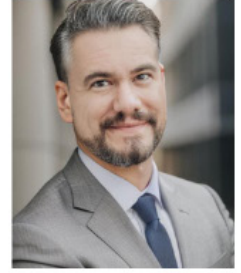
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AYDA OZDOGANLAR



CLAUDIUS
JOSH KING



GERTRUDE
SASHA HILDEBRAND



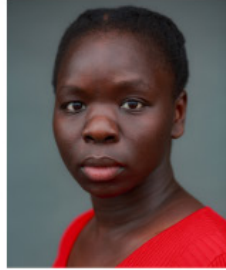
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MICAH GOODING



POLONIUS
PTAAH GARVIN



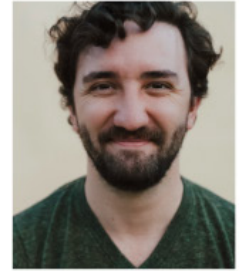
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PRENTISS PATRICK-CARTER



HORATIO
AKUR ORYEM



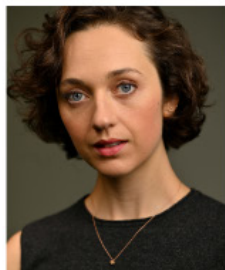
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GIANNA PORFANO



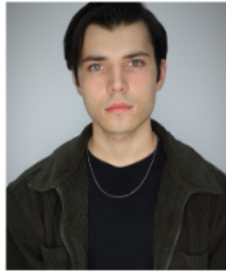
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KEVIN THIEL



GRAVEDIGGER
JASON RICHARDS



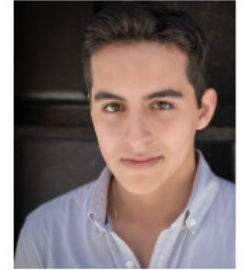
2ND GRAVEDIGGER/PLAYER QUEEN
ALICE WILKINSON



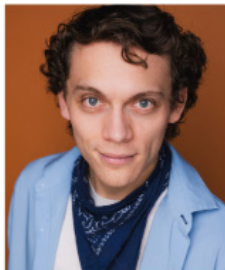
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NATHAN BACHTELL



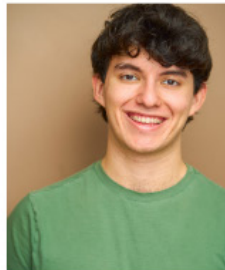
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MAURICE AIMÉ GREEN



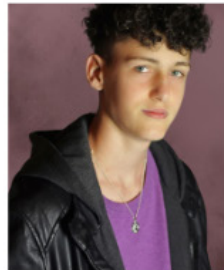
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MATTHEW HERNANDEZ



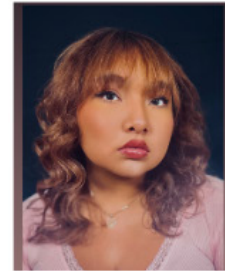
FRANCISCO/PLAYER KING
ETHAN SHAW



BERNARDO/ENSEMBLE
ALEX RAMIREZ CANNON



MARCELLUS/ENSEMBLE
NOAH KING



NORWEGIAN CAPTAIN/ENSEMBLE
MARIANA SALDAÑA

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM

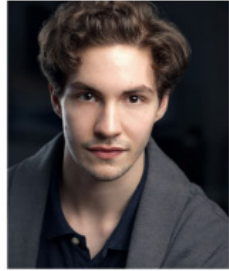
FEATURING



HELENA
DANIELLE KERR



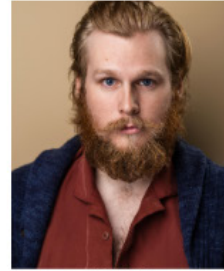
HERMIA
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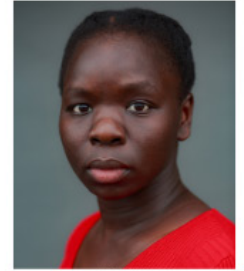
LYSANDER
KEENAN PASOUA



DEMETRIUS
ADAM KODA



THESEUS
IAN BINGHAM



HIPPOLYTA
AKUR ORJEM



NICK BOTTOM
PTAH GARVIN



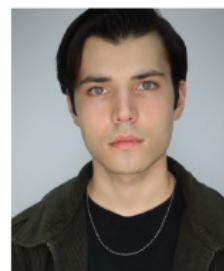
PETER QUINCE
JASON RICHARDS



FRANCIS FLUTE
SAM PERRY



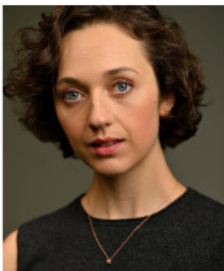
SNUG
PRENITSS PATRICK-CARTER



ROBIN STARVELING
NATHAN BACHTELL



TOM SNOOT
OLIVIER LUBIN



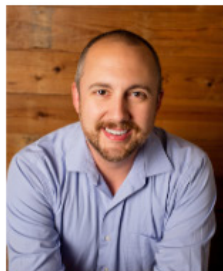
PUCK
ALICE WILKINSON



OBERON
MAURICE-AIMÉ GREEN



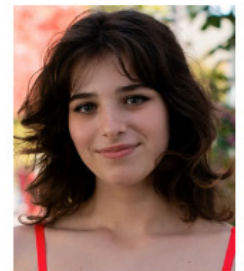
TITANIA
MEAGHAN SIMPSON



EGEUS
JOSH KING



PHILOSTRATE
ALAN TONEY



MUSTARDSEED
TAMARA ARAD



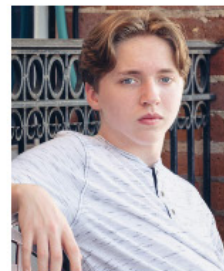
MOTH
MICHON LOTT



PEASEBLOSSOM
JULIA BARAJAZ



COBWEB
BRELEIGH WARLICK

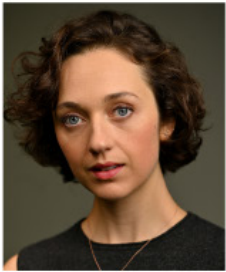


FAIRY
SILAS LOEFFLER

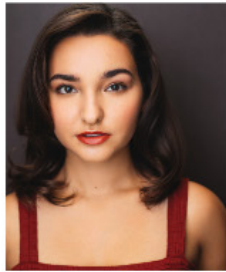


EMMA

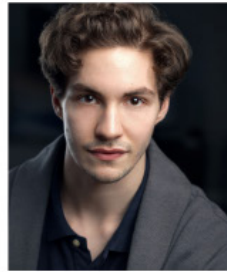
FEATURING



EMMA WOODHOUSE
ALICE WILKINSON



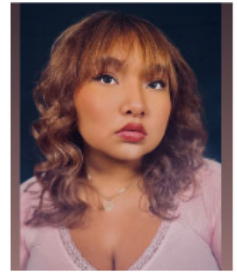
HARRIET SMITH
GIANNA PORTANO



MR. KNIGHTLY
KEENAN PASOUA



MR. ELTON
ADAM KODA



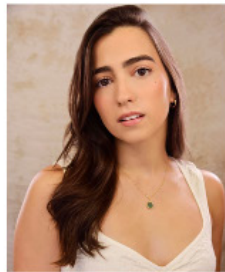
MRS. ELTON
MARIANA SALDAÑA



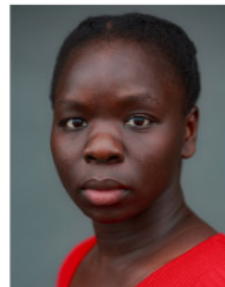
MR. WOODHOUSE
IAN BINGHAM



FRANK CHURCHILL
KEVIN THIEL



JANE FAIRFAX
AYDA OZDOGANLAR



MRS. WESTON
AKUR ORYEM



MR. WESTON
SAM PERRY



MISS BATES
DANIELLE KERR



MR. MARTIN/PARTY GUEST/ENSEMBLE
JOEL CAMMACK



PARTY GUEST/ENSEMBLE
TAMARA ARAD



PARTY GUEST/ENSEMBLE
MICHON LOTT



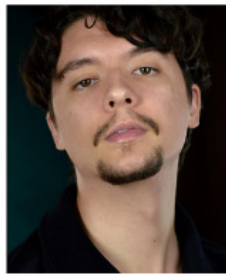
FEATURING



JOHN ADAMS
IAN BINGHAM



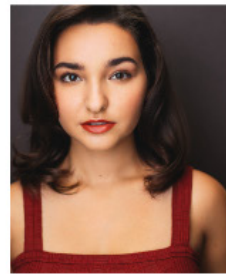
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
JOSH KING



THOMAS JEFFERSON
NICHOLAS DIPUMA



ABIGAIL ADAMS
DANIELLE KERR



MARTHA JEFFERSON
GIANNA PORTANO



RICHARD LEE
KEVIN THIEL



JOHN HANCOCK
MAURICE AIMÉ GREEN



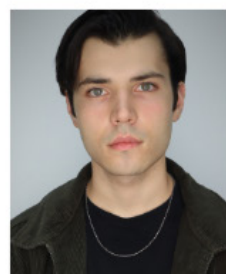
EDWARD RUTLEDGE
SAM PERRY



JOHN DICKINSON
KEENAN PASOUA



COURIER
PRENTISS PATRICK-CARTER



ANDREW MCNAIR
NATHAN BACHTELL



CHARLES THOMPSON
JASON RICHARDS



STEPHEN HOPKINS
MICAH GOODING



CAESAR RODNEY
ADAM KODA



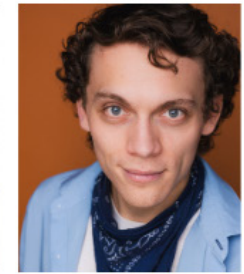
DR. LYMAN HALL
PTAH GARVIN



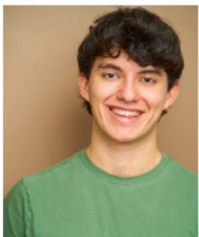
REV. WITHERSPOON
ALAN TONEY



SAMUEL CHASE
MATTHEW HERNANDEZ



ROGER SHERMAN
ETHAN SHAW



ROBERT LIVINGSTON
ALEX RAMIREZ CANNON



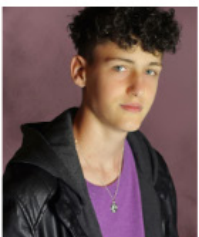
JAMES WILSON
OLIVIER LUBIN



LEWIS MORRIS/BELL RINGER
SILAS LOEFFLER



GEORGE READ/A PAINTER
JOEL CAMMACK



JOSEPH HEWES/LEATHER APRON
NOAH KING



COL. THOMAS MCKEAN
BEN CAMMACK



DR. JOSIAH BARTLETT
AUSTIN RAYMOND



FEATURING



JACK
MATTHEW SIMPSON



LOUISE
MEAGHAN SIMPSON

The Reluctant DRAGON

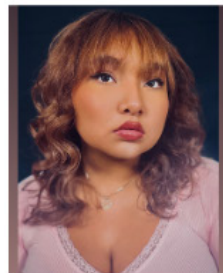
FEATURING



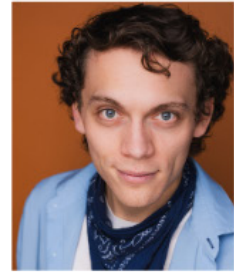
GLASTON
OLIVIER LUBIN



WOOLCHESTER
ALAN TONEY



DARBY
MARIANA SALDAÑA



THE DRAGON
ETHAN SHAW



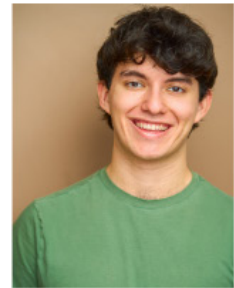
KENDAL
MICHON LOTT



GRIMSBY
MATTHEW HERNANDEZ



MORPETH
TAMARA ARAD



ST. GEORGE
ALEX RAMIREZ CANNON



Guild Board Members, Louise Cochran, Treasurer and Sharon Noblit, President man the TSF Guild table at the Longview Arts District April ArtWalk



