

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

SPRING 2019

From the Desk of the TSF Guild President Claudia Morgan-Gray

Hello, TSF Guild Members and would-be Guild Members! Happy 2019 from your TSF Guild Board of Directors. We have already begun our preparations for the coming summer season and the arrival of the wonderful and talented cast and crew. As the Guild, we are the concierges of sorts for the TSF Troup while they are here – and we get a five-star rating, believe you me!

The 2019 TSF Troup will arrive in May. The TSF Guild Board is grateful to all of Guild Members for your continued and renewed support of the Guild. As we do each and every year, we continue to extend our hands to others

who will join and help us to grow the TSF Guild membership. We always welcome new members – there are many ways our people help to take care of the TSF Staff and all of those that come to be part of the Festival during the summer.

We provide many levels of opportunities to accommodate our Guild members. Some are willing and eager to lend their energy and time to assist us with volunteer needs and activities. Others may not want to be included in volunteer activities but do want to lend their support in a financial manner. We have membership opportunities that will fit everyone's preferences.

Our members are the key to the TSF Guild's success. Each of you is a valuable part of the Guild – and we thank you. If you have not renewed your TSF Guild Membership for the coming season, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible so you can be included in the 2019 Season playbill. Share this opportunity with your friends, neighbors or relatives that enjoy arts -- encourage or assist them in joining the Guild and bring them to the theater this summer to share the experience of the plays.

On behalf of the TSF Guild Board, we look forward to sharing another wonderful season with you. Thank you for your membership and your support.



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From Gem Meacham, Guild President-Elect

The Guild Officers are proud to represent our members. Outside of Texas, we have members in one foreign country and twenty-three states who live in fifty-two communities. Our Texas members hail from eighty-four communities.

If you want to know other Guild members who live in your community, or reach out to prospective members who might not be familiar with the Festival, we can help you plan an event. Contact me if you are interested in a so-

cial gathering in your community, or if you would like a program at your civic, cultural or social organization.

The Guild exists as a vehicle for you to support our Festival Artists. Each year we budget ALL the membership dues received and spend that revenue on the Summer Season and Roadshow companies. We start from zero every year.

Your annual dues provide approximately 100 company mem-

bers breakfast and lunch, as well as supper for the thirty-member open changeover crew. Your dues also provide welcome bags and supplies for Company members and support Guild operations such as preparation of lobby displays, opening night events and refreshments at receptions.

We budget according to our memberships; if any funds remain, they are given to the Festival staff for items which are not in their annual operating budget.



FOLLOW THE GUILD



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

Facebook: [TexasShakesGuild](#)
or on

Twitter: [@TxShakesGuild](#)

Notes from TSF Artistic Director Raymond Caldwell

They're Back! Returning Actors

The 2019 summer season breaks a record for the number of actors who are returning to us. As a matter of fact, of the 15 acting positions in the major acting company, only one male and one female will be joining us for the first time.

Those who are returning include the following:

- DJ Canaday, who acted for TSF in two previous years;
- Micah Goodding, Director of the KC Theater Program, who has worked here for seven prior seasons and played such memo-

orable roles as *Richard III*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, and the title role in *Tartuffe*;

- Rick Higginbotham, theater teacher at White Oak High School, returning for his eighth season;

Support the Festival on East Texas Giving Day

East Texas Giving Day is an 18-hour online event that provides critical funding for area nonprofit organizations. The official day to give is Tuesday, April 30th, 2019, from 6:00 a.m. to midnight.

The purpose of an area-wide Giving Day is to bring the region together on one day and as one community, to raise money and awareness for East Texas nonprofits.

East Texas Giving Day is an online event. Most of the activity will take place via the EastTexasGivingDay.org website. Simply visit the site, search for Texas Shakespeare Festival under the “non-profits,” and donate.

An added incentive: If we raise more money than any other East Texas non-profit, we could win prize money. \$\$\$

Sponsor an Intern (Again)

Once again the Festival is asking for your help in offering each member of our Intern Company, actors as well as technical artists, a token raise in their small \$125-a-week salary by “sponsoring an intern” with a \$250 donation which will be added to their paychecks. For the past few years, Guild members and patrons have generously volunteered to serve as Intern Sponsors, and the Festival has been able to pay all of the interns a weekly salary of \$150 instead of the \$125 that is in our budget.

Every intern works 40 – 60 hours a week while they are here. Even with a \$25-a-week raise, they earn only \$2.50 - \$3.75 per hour, much less than the current minimum wage.

If you can, please sponsor an intern by sending a check for \$250 to TSF Intern Sponsor, 1100 Broadway, Kilgore, TX 75662, or call the Festival offices if you prefer to use a credit card. All Intern Sponsors are acknowledged in the season program. Your name will be listed alongside the photo and bio of the Intern as well as on our foyer televisions and a special plaque in the hallway.

TSF staff will arrange for all sponsors to meet the Intern(s) they sponsor. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!

Actors, continued from page 1

- Lucas Iverson, who was part of our Intern Acting Company in 2017 and with our Roadshow this past fall;
- Tim Sailer, who played King John at TSF last season;
- Kyle Stocker, who has been part of the TSF Roadshow for two years;
- Jake Offen, who was in *Henry V* and *Merchant of Venice* in 2016;
- Evan Hart, who was in last year's Acting Company;
- Grace Abele, who is returning for her third consecutive summer as an actor and her second consecutive year as the author of our play for children;
- Lea DiMarchi, also a third-year alumna who played Roxanne in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and one of the Marvelous Wonderettes;
- Angie Atkinson, who was with us in 2009 and 2010, appearing in *She Loves Me*, as the Chanteuse in both *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, and Marianne in *Tartuffe*;
- Lauren Ufkes, who has acted for us for the past two seasons;
- Meaghan Simpson, Associate Artistic Director, who is appearing onstage for her eighth summer season, but who also directed *110 in the Shade* last summer. Meaghan will be playing the Witch in *Into the Woods*. The ultimate compliment for TSF is to have Company Members apply to return, and this season we are overjoyed and grateful to say “Welcome Home” to so many members of our family.

UPCOMING GUILD EVENTS

Behind the Scenes—June 9th, 3-5 p.m.

Come ‘behind the scenes’ with us as we explore this season’s costumes, props, backdrops, and more! Convene at the Van Cliburn Auditorium to meet the technicians who create the magic. We will then journey to the Festival Center, 815 Houston St, to see the workings of the costume and prop shops. There will be a small reception following the tour. **RSVP: kimmacedo@netzero.net**

Guild Member Opening Night Receptions

June 27th—As You Like It • June 28th—Born Yesterday
June 29th—Othello • June 30th—Into the Woods

Come early and join other Guild members from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the lobby of the Van Cliburn Auditorium. Refreshments and conversation before the curtain will let you know how much we appreciate your being a member of the Guild. Even if you are not attending opening nights, come anyway to the receptions—just for the company/Company

Guild Member Ice Cream Social—July 24th

Beat the heat with some ice cream in the Van Cliburn Auditorium concession area after the matinee Talent Showcase and then again before the evening Talent Showcase. Join us as we celebrate the 2019 TSF season and see additional samples of Company talent!

New Faces Onstage

With the majority of the Acting Company comprised of TSF alumni, only two new artists will be joining our family for the first time.

- Cordell Cole, from Georgia, has acted for the Utah Shakespeare Festival, the American Shakespeare Center, and the American Players Theatre, among other major companies, and will portray Othello for TSF this summer. In addition, he will be Le Beau and Corin in *As You Like It* and the Narrator and the Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods*.
- Molly Wetzel, a graduate student at the University of Houston from Kansas City, played the title role in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* for the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. She will play the role of Desdemona in *Othello*, Phebe in *As You Like It*, and Florinda and Rapunzel in *Into the Woods* this summer.

All five of the males as well as the one female in the Intern Acting Company are new to us. They are Gerrit Wilford, Graham Baker, Roman Kyle, Drew Wells, Addison Debter, and Emily Chang. Each of them will perform in three of the four main shows as well as in the children's show *The Girl Who Cried Throgmonster*, written and directed by Grace Abele.

Because of our smaller acting company this year, and because so many actors are TSF alums, there were only a handful of positions open to new artists, but we feel fortunate and delighted to have these particular actors joining us for our 34th season.

Online Ticket Sales Begin at 12:01 AM, May 1

Mark your calendar and set your clock! At midnight on April 30, TSF tickets will be available for purchase to those who choose to buy them ONLINE. Many patrons actually stay awake and wait for the strike of twelve in order to secure their favorite seats for the season, and a large portion of our season tickets are sold before noon on the first day they are available.

If, however, you prefer NOT to buy tickets ONLINE, the first day for Guild Members at the Box Office is Wednesday, May 22, at 9:00 AM, and for the general public, it is Saturday, May 25. The **Ticket Office** telephone number is **903-983-8601**, and the address is TSF Ticket Office, 1100 Broadway, Kilgore, TX 75662.

Individual tickets are once again \$33, and a season ticket, which includes one ticket to each of the four major shows, is only \$99, which reflects a 25% discount. The children's show and the Annual Talent Show are not included in the season ticket. They are \$8 and \$20 respectively.

Directors for the 2019 Season

Of the five directors for this summer, three have directed for the Festival before, and two are joining TSF for the first time.

GRACE ABELE

Playwright / Director: *THE GIRL WHO CRIED THROGMONSTER*

Grace holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting from the University of Florida. Past credits with Texas Shakespeare include Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Betty Jean in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, Julie Jordan in *Carousel*, Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*, Nerissa in *The Merchant of Venice*, Dorine in *Tartuffe*, and the Princess of France in *Love's Labour's Lost*.

This is Grace's fourth season in the acting company at TSF, and her second season as writer and director of the children's show, having created and directed *The Lovely Stepsister* last year.

MATTHEW SIMPSON

Director: *AS YOU LIKE IT*

Matthew is an Associate Artistic Director with TSF, where his directing credits include *Love's Labour's Lost*, *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *A Christmas Carol Radio Play*, and assistant director to Stephen Terrell on 2016's *Carousel*.

For the TSF Roadshow, he has directed productions of *Macbeth*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and three adaptations of *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits*.

As an actor, Matthew has been in 15 TSF productions and worked regionally with the Guthrie Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Chamber Theater Productions of Boston, the Resident Ensemble Players, and the Richmond Shepard Theater in NYC.

Matthew holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting from the University of Delaware.

LEDA HOFFMANN

Director: *BORN YESTERDAY*

Leda is joining Texas Shakespeare for her first season. Her Shakespearean directing credits include *Hamlet* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Tempest*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Door Shakespeare), *King Lear* (Alchemist Theatre), as well as numerous other productions.

Leda is a graduate of Grinnell College, a former Milwaukee Rep directing intern, and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab.

DONALD CARRIER

Director: *OTHELLO*

Donald has worked extensively across North America. He spent nine seasons at the Stratford Festival playing leading roles in *As You Like It*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Twelfth Night*, *Coriolanus* and *Measure for Measure*, among many others. Three seasons at the Old Globe include *The Merchant of Venice*, *King Lear* and *Amadeus*. He also spent two seasons at the Shaw Festival.

Shakespearean directing credits include *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*; *Twelfth Night* (Colorado College), and numerous other non-Shakespearean plays.

Donald is the Interim Director for the Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Play House MFA Acting Program and a 2016 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow.

DANIEL HALEY

Director / Choreographer: *INTO THE WOODS*

Daniel directed Texas Shakespeare Festival's *The Marvelous Wonderettes* in 2017. He is the Artistic Director of Judson Theatre Company and directed their *Love Letters* with Tab Hunter and Joyce DeWitt, *Driving Miss Daisy* with Michael Learned, and a number of productions involving other well-known actors.

Daniel performed in *My Fair Lady* with Richard Chamberlain and toured Europe in *Crazy for You*. He splits his time between Pinehurst, NC, and Buffalo, NY.

Before the Curtain Rises

Escape into the world of theatre for a six-week class taking you behind the scenes of the Texas Shakespeare Festival's 2019 season. This course will introduce the craft of theatre to patrons who are curious about the inner workings of the art form and allow you to have a deeply enriching experience as you take in the summer productions.

Dates: March 26th-April 30th Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m.

Location: TSF Festival Center 815 Houston St. Kilgore, TX

Cost: \$100

Instructors: Matthew and Meaghan Simpson

To register or for more information, call (903) 983-8613.

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 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.*

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.



2018—2019 Executive Board

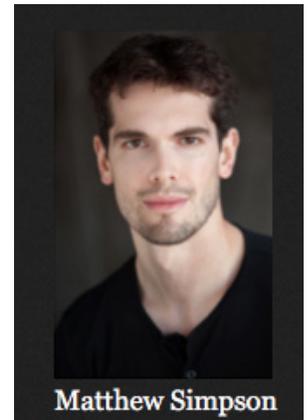
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	<i>Matthew Simpson</i>

TSF DIRECTORS



Donald Carrier

Othello



Matthew Simpson

As You Like it



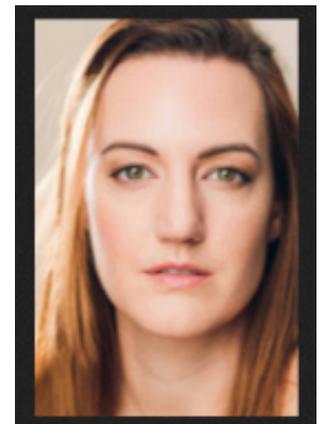
Daniel Haley

Into the Woods



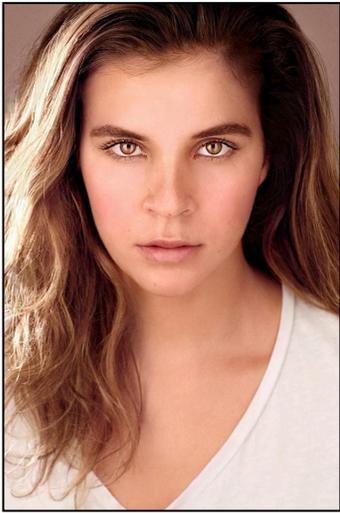
Leda Hoffmann

Born Yesterday



The Girl Who Cried Throgmonster

As You Like It



Othello



Born Yesterday



Into the Woods



*The Girl Who Cried
Throgmonster*

