

# Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

FALL 2018

## Announcing the 2019 TSF Summer Season

These are the delights to look forward to next season, as Raymond himself describes them.

One of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies, *Othello* tells the story of a Moorish general and his unfaithful ensign, Iago, who convinces him that his wife Desdemona has been unfaithful. The play deals with various themes, including love, jealousy, betrayal, revenge, and repentance.

"Beware, my lord, of jealousy. It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on."

*As You Like It*, one of Shakespeare's most frequently performed comedies, is a hilarious tale of disguises and mistaken identities. Harold Bloom wrote that Rosalind is among Shakespeare's greatest and most fully realized female characters.

"All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players."

After its opening on Broadway in 1946, Garson Kanin's comedy *Born Yesterday* became the longest-running show on Broadway with 1,642 performances, a record it held for almost 30 years. It

is the story of an unethical millionaire doing illegal business in Washington, DC, while the behavior of his unrefined mistress threatens to spoil his plans. A funny play with an important message.

A musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, *Into the Woods* intertwines the plots of several well-known fairy tales as it explores the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. "Be careful what you wish for" seems to be the ongoing theme, along with the message that people must come together to save each other.

Following in the tradition of producing original plays for children, the 2019 season will feature the world premiere of *Elfie's Awful Wish*, written and directed by Grace Abele, who gave us *The Lovely Stepsister* last year. Once again, Grace has written a clever and humorous script that contains a valuable moral lesson for people of all ages.

Other Performances: The annual TSF Talent Showcase will have two performances on Wednesday, July 24, at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM in the Van Cliburn Theater. Join us for an hour of live music and a few delightful surprises followed by a light reception in the theater foyer. The Talent Show is a fundraiser for the Festival, and tickets are \$25 each. Come join the fun of seeing TSF Company Members share their talents other than those displayed in their onstage roles.

The 11th annual "Chinese Theater Night" is Tuesday, July 23, at 7:30 PM. Admission is free, but reservations are required. This special event is always entertaining, inspiring, and surprisingly moving, as it reminds all of us of our universal human kinship. A light reception follows the performance.



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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

**Twitter:** [@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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## More News from Raymond

### A Short, Interesting Fact

In case you didn't hear this announcement during one of the pre-show curtain speeches last summer:

During the 2018 season, our audience members came from 155 towns in Texas, 46 states and territories, and 7 foreign countries. It is obvious, therefore, that TSF is no longer just an area attraction and that its reputation extends far beyond East Texas. Each member of the Guild has played an important role in the Festival's growth and development, and I hope you take pride in that fact.

### Bittersweet New Beginnings

Time passes. People's lives take them in new directions. Sometimes the Festival must face these realities with a real measure of regret mixed with anxiety. This summer, unfortunately, is one of those dreaded times. The following members of our Festival Family will not be joining us for a variety of personal and professional reasons:

**Jennifer Burke**, who served as our Vocal Director for ten years, and who touched our hearts with her portrayal of Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst* for four years. Jennifer is now the Department Chair at The University of Miami, a position that includes a 12-month contract, which prevents her from leaving Miami in the summer. With her unique combination of talents, her passionate devotion to her work for the Festival, and her exemplary professionalism, Jennifer will be very hard to replace.

**Arnold Sherman**, the Festival Music Director and Orchestra Conductor for the past nine years. Few people know how much Arnold did for the Festival. In addition to attending every rehearsal of the musicals (and appearing onstage for last summer's production of *Love's Labour's Lost*), Arnold also performed the arduous task of re-orchestrating the musical score of every show he directed, reducing the original orchestration to accommodate our small seven-piece music ensemble. After seven consecutive years, Arnold wanted to take some time for family and travel.

**Sarah Fish**, the Festival's meal coordinator for the past four years. Each year, Sarah assumed additional duties, including coordinating receptions and special events, and helping to schedule Adopt-an-Artist Dinners. Borrowing a term from movies and television, we gave Sarah the title of "Craft Services Manager," indicating the scope of her job as the beloved food provider, and Sarah accepted her motherly role with efficiency and uncommon devotion. If you worked with her by donating food for any meal, you will miss Sarah. We are already searching for someone to replace Sarah, who has accepted several opportunities for professional advancement at her college.

## No Christmas Show This Year

After five consecutive years of offering a special show during the Christmas season as a fundraiser for the Festival, we are taking a break this year for a very good reason. As you know, Matthew and Meaghan have directed and acted in all the previous Christmas shows, but this year, on October 10, they became the parents of their second child, a healthy and beautiful boy. All of us on Staff felt that little William's arrival was an event much more important than restaging any radio play! And since the Roadshow was in the fall this year, William's parents need a break from theater in order to play the leading roles of parents to two boys. "Unto them a child is born," and let us all celebrate that event!



### Report on the Roadshow



Seven TSF Roadshow Company members arrived September 23 and will depart November 13:

Kaleb Edley (Roadshow '18); Lucas Iverson (TSF '17); Joy Jones (Roadshow '16, Spring'17, Fall '17, '18); P.T. Mahoney (TSF '18, Roadshow '18); Kyle Stocker (Roadshow '16, '18); Lauren Ufkes (TSF '17, '18, Roadshow '18); Jacob Harris Wright (Roadshow '18).

During the 51 days, these TSF artists will rehearse and perform two shows: *Macbeth* (abridged) and *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits* (scenes from *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Othello*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, woven together with music and narration about Shakespeare's plays and Elizabethan England.)

The Roadshow Company will be traveling from Oct. 9 through Nov. 10, giving 34 performances and conducting 10 workshops. They performed in seventeen communities, including a five-day residency at the Shakespeare Globe Theater in Odessa.

On October 28 (Sunday, their day off), the Roadshow Company will perform both shows exclusively for Guild members.

Thanks to this group for their outreach to younger audiences and both near and far-flung locations for the Festival!

## A Note from the President of the TSF Guild:

From the TSF Guild Board, thank you to all the Guild members for your membership, attendance and support of the TSF 2018 Festival. We are now hard at work getting our membership roll increased and in good order. The Festival Staff is hard at work on the 2019 season plays and performers.

Being a member of the TSF Guild is like giving yourself (and us) a gift. We are the welcome committee; we are the hospitality committee; we are the theatre supporters, the arts enthusiasts, the community outreach supporters, the economic development calculators, and the theatre fan club. We, all of the TSF Guild, are extraordinary.

You are an important, valued and appreciated part of the Guild. So, if you have not renewed your TSF Guild Membership, please do so today and invite a friend, colleague or family member to join too. Share the wonder of the Texas Shakespeare Festival and share your commitment to the TSF Guild.

Looking forward to sharing another fabulous season with you. Thank you for your dedication to, support of and membership in the TSF Guild.

**Claudia Morgan-Gray**  
*2018-2019 TSF Guild President*

## Membership Memo from President-Elect Meacham

To date, 783 have joined the Guild for the 2019 membership year. Each and every one of YOU gives the Guild the ability to support the Festival in many ways. YOU “feed a starving artist” during the summer season. YOU provide breakfast six days a week and lunch basics three days a week from mid-May through end-July. YOU feed the changeover crews each weekend of performances. YOU give the welcome containers with essentials needed by company members during their stay in East Texas. YOU adopt the artists and show them East Texas hospitality, which makes TSF unique in the theater world. YOU do the same for the Fall Roadshow Company. YOU!! Each of YOU with your membership provides the Guild a budget, 100% of which sustains and supports our TSF artists. We hope the Guild, in return, meets your expectations.



## Festival Strike Dinner and Fall Welcome for the Road Show

The year at TSF seems to move in a whirlwind of activity! We barely finish one event before planning begins for the next!

About 120 Guild members joined in the Strike Dinner at St Luke's United Methodist Church Family Center on July 30 as we bid a fond farewell to the 2018 Company. The Guild members outdid themselves in providing side dishes and desserts to accompany the pulled pork and sloppy joe sliders. No one left hungry!

The annual business meeting of the TSF Guild followed the meal.

The Welcome Dinner for the touring Roadshow company was held on Monday, September 24, in the upstairs space, between rehearsals. It was attended by about twenty-five members from the Foundation Board, TSF Guild Board and the Rosa May Griffin Foundation, as well as staff and the actors. Amid tables decorated with pumpkins and fall leaves, a simple meal of green salad, potato salad, Frito pie and pulled pork was served. Dessert was home-baked cookies.

## Information to Munch On: Report from the Guild Company Events Committee

**Lunch Bunch** - More than 50 Guild members, several organizations, and local restaurants provided lunch extras three days a week during the 2018 TSF season. The donations came from members from Henderson, Kilgore, Tyler, Longview, Hawkins, Jacksonville, Ore City, Jefferson, Scroggins, White Oak, Gladewater, and Pittsburg.

**Breakfast** - Your Guild membership dues supplied food for breakfast, Tuesday through Sunday, May 22nd - July 31st. Fruit, cereal, muffins, bagels, etc. were available for company members.

**Change-Over** - Change-over dinners are served to the stage crew that transforms the matinee stage set to the evening performance set. Several Guild members provided full meals or items to complement a meal. Other Guild members donated funds to pay for meals not provided by a Guild member.

**Adopt-An-Artist** - There were 51 adoptions of artists and 255 meals covered. Almost everyone in the company was adopted, except people who specifically asked not to be adopted, or could not go because of work demands.

To all our wonderful TSF Guild members, thank you for your generosity, support, and caring as we all work together to “Feed the Company.”

Members of the Lunch Bunch honored at a reception thanking all volunteers. L to r: Rachel Brian, Sally Beane and Barbara Rossman.

## 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](mailto: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

<b>President</b>	<i>Claudia Morgan-Gray</i>
<b>President—Elect</b>	<i>Gem Meacham</i>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<i>Sharon Noblit</i>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<i>Lois Knouse</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Sue Brown</i>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<i>Rhonda Stephens</i>
<b>Past President</b>	<i>Lesa Maatouk</i>
<b>VP—Guild Events</b>	<i>Kim Macedo</i>
<b>Co-VP’s—Company Events</b>	<i>Eileen Kosnick</i>
	<i>Karen Peters</i>
<b>Co-VP’s—House Events</b>	<i>Melinda Johnson</i>
	<i>Martha Rutherford</i>
<b>Co-VP’s—Communications</b>	<i>Martha Dalby</i>
	<i>Kate Wells</i>
<b>TSF Artistic Director</b>	<i>Raymond Caldwell</i>
<b>TSF Managing Director</b>	<i>John Dodd</i>
<b>TSF Associate Artistic Directors</b>	<i>Meaghan Simpson</i>
	<i>Matthew Simpson</i>

## ADOPT AN ARTIST



Upper left: Early arrivals on May 16 are traditionally hosted by Barbara McClellan at The Butcher Shop in Longview. — with Barbara McClellan, Daniel Brown, Allyson Lee and Sarah Fish.

Bottom left: Melissa & Ryan were hosted at the Burrito Shop by Gem & Jan in May — with Gem Meacham in Kilgore, Texas.

Upper right: Sue & Rhonda host a crew at Downtown D’Lites for potato Thursday in May — with Sue Brown.

Bottom right: Early arrivals on May 16 are traditionally hosted by Barbara McClellan at The Butcher Shop in Longview. — with Barbara McClellan, Daniel Brown, Allyson Lee and Sarah Fish.



# The Queen's Tea



## VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF TSF



The Macedo Family worked hard setting up, tearing down and serving guests.

Lauren Fields, a company intern, had the night off to attend the show. She visited with Guild Captain Sammye Tucker, longtime Guild volunteer Ciny Fields (her mom) and Guild president Claudia Morgan-Gray



TSF Foundation President Christina Anderson and Raymond Caldwell work on proofing the Playbill.



Nell Collins greeting at the back door.