

# Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

SPRING 2020

## Message from Gem Meacham, TSF Guild President

### Welcome 2020!

The Guild is gearing up for the arrival of the 90+ members for the summer season. They arrive mid-May. Wow—only two months away! Your Guild board has been busy actuating the mission you set for us. You, our wonderful Guild members, support the Guild hospitality efforts through your memberships and also by volunteering. Thank you to ALL who are volunteers, as well as ALL who support with just your membership. All the cogs make the big wheels turn the way we want them to go.

### Junior Board Initiative

We are currently researching the formation of a junior board which we hope will bring more youth participation into the Guild. We hope to launch this in 2021. Ideas, input, or assistance from our members would be very helpful. Please contact us if you have experience with a youth board or can think of a catchy name for this proposed group.

## Save the Date Opportunities—Guild Events!

On Thursday, April 23rd, The TSF Guild will host the Bard's Birthday Tea at the Kosnik home in Tyler, from 4:30—6 pm. We wo  
fait **CANCELED!**  
pa **Due to health concerns.**  
1, "We apologize for any inconvenience."  
providing salads, sides, and dessert for the cast and crew Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays during the TSF season. Through the caring and love of these volunteers, our TSF family has some special treats and special moments. So join us for some refreshments as we express our appreciation for your faithful support! Details will follow by invitation for those who provided food last year.

Please contact Eileen Kosnik, [ekosnik@mac.com](mailto:ekosnik@mac.com) if you wish to help this coming year so we can include you on the guest list. Monday, May 18th, we will welcome the company at a dinner at St Luke's United Methodist Gym. More information will follow, but please mark the date now! This is not a potluck so you will need to RSVP when the details are communicated to you so

that we have enough tables and food that evening. The design presentation will follow at 7:30 pm in the Van Cliburn Auditorium of Kilgore College. While your calendars are out, please note the date of the Strike Dinner is on Monday evening, July 27th at the St Luke's Family Center. Details will follow, but this one WILL be a potluck, so plan to prepare your favorite dish.



### TSF Roadshow Behind the Scenes

Great video of the 2019 Roadshow

Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search TSF Roadshow Behind the Scenes 2019



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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  
**Twitter:** [@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!

## Membership Has Its Privileges

### To Our Loyal TSF Guild Members:

We have once again made it possible for Guild Members to buy tickets online before they become available to the general public. This can help reduce the long lines and congestion at the ticket office during the two or three days in May when Guild Members and Foundation Board Members have traditionally bought their tickets early.

The TSF staff has set up a pre-sale code for Guild Members to use that allows online ticket purchases to begin Friday, May 1st.

The pre-sale code is: **TSF2020**

### Intern Sponsors Needed

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. This can be accomplished by “sponsoring an intern” with a \$250 donation which will be added to their paychecks, bringing their weekly salary up to \$150. Interns work 40 – 60 hours a week while they’re here. Even with a sponsorship “raise,” they earn only \$2.50 - \$3.75 per hour.

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

## Karen Peters, President Elect

### Please Join Us by Becoming a Guild Member

As a Guild member, you are an important part of the success of TSF every single season. Your annual membership fee helps us host and feed the 90+ summer season company members, as well as Roadshow and Christmas guest artists.

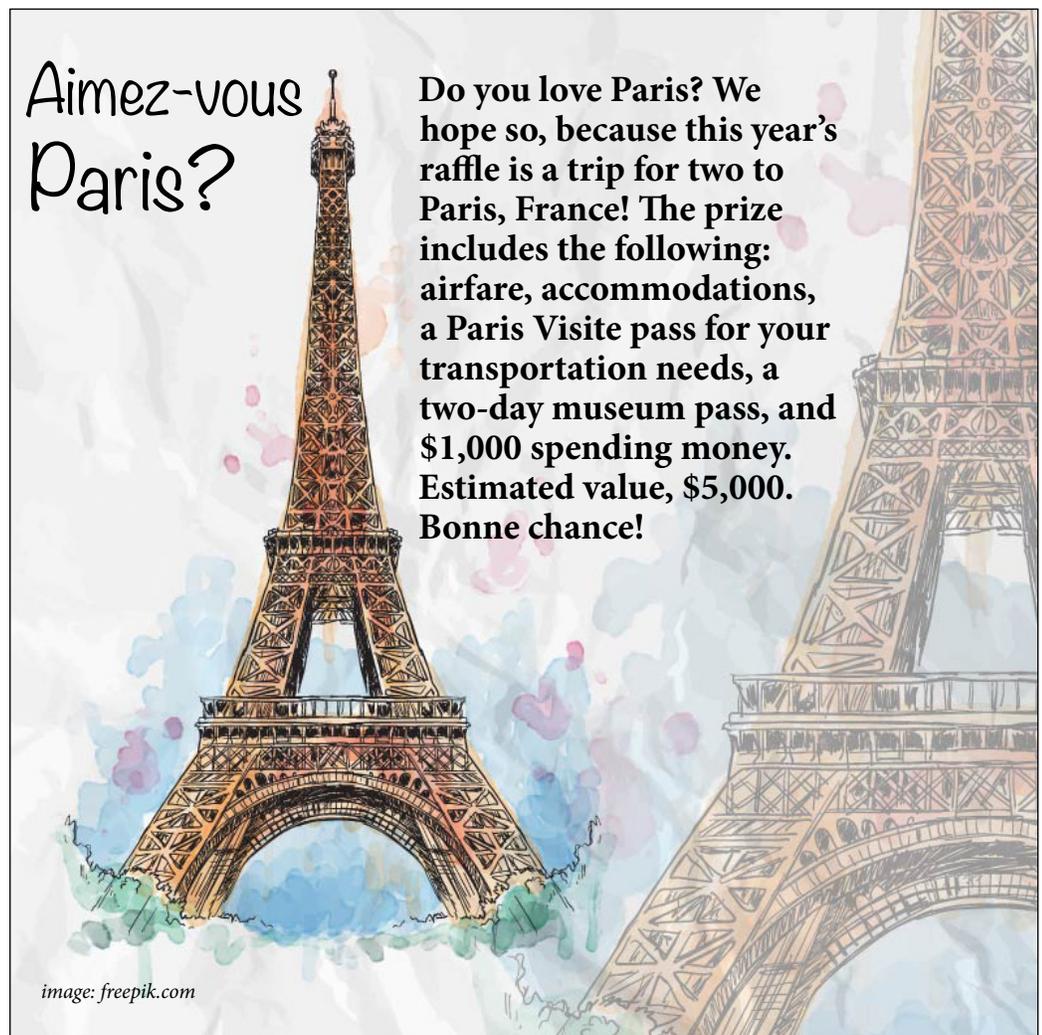
Our friendly hospitality, along with the outstanding artistry of the Festival, attracts theater professionals from throughout the U.S. and several countries. What a wonderful opportunity we have to personally meet and host them through Guild volunteer efforts!

There are currently just over 800 Guild members, and that number increases weekly. Be sure your membership is current before the beginning of the 2020 season. A new membership category for Youth is in the works.

We are always looking for new ways to promote the Guild. If you belong to a business, civic, or social group that would welcome a program, please let us know.

Many things are beginning to happen as the 2020 season draws closer to reality. Don't miss any of the fun and activities. Thank you for your membership. Your dues and your volunteerism truly help to make the season a huge success!!

Contact President-Elect Karen Peters, 903-238-3742 or [kspeters05@gmail.com](mailto:kspeters05@gmail.com)



Aimez-vous Paris?

Do you love Paris? We hope so, because this year's raffle is a trip for two to Paris, France! The prize includes the following: **airfare, accommodations, a Paris Visite pass for your transportation needs, a two-day museum pass, and \$1,000 spending money. Estimated value, \$5,000. Bonne chance!**

image: freepik.com

## Support the Festival on April 28 East Texas Giving Day

East Texas Giving Day is an 18-hour area-wide online event that brings the region together on one day and as one community to raise money and awareness for East Texas nonprofits.

The official day to give is Tuesday, April 28th, 2020, from 6:00 am to midnight. However, you can also schedule a donation ahead of time as early as April 13. (Your donation won't be processed until April 28th.)

Thanks to a matching gift from a generous donor, the donations TFSF receives through the East Texas Giving Day will be matched—effectively doubling your impact. So, if you're considering a donation to

TFSF this year, you might want to take advantage of this opportunity.

Here's the direct link: <https://www.easttexasgivingday.org/texasshakespearefestival> Or you can go to the Support drop-down menu on the TFSF website to find the link, or search for Texas Shakespeare Festival on [EastTexasGivingDay.org](http://EastTexasGivingDay.org).

Whether or not you choose to participate in ET Giving Day, please share the link and the information with your theatre-loving friends between April 13th and Midnight April 28th! Texas Shakespeare Festival wouldn't be possible without our hard-working Guild members and our generous family of donors. So, help us spread the word!

## Securing the Festival's Future

In 2017, the TFSF Foundation Board voted to establish an endowment fund to help secure the Festival's future. Now that the fund has been created, the Board has added a category of endowed giving called The Prospero Society. Named after the wise magician in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, the Prospero Society is to recognize those who have provided for Texas

Shakespeare Festival in their estate plans. The TFSF Foundation Board is taking these steps to create a stable financial base of support for Texas Shakespeare Festival. We hope you're as excited as we are about these steps to secure the Festival's future. Be watching for more about the TFSF Foundation Endowment and the Prospero Society in the months ahead.

## United We Stand

There are going to be some new faces and additional literature at the Guild table this season. At many of the performances, members from the TFSF Foundation Board will be manning the table with

Guild members. Let's work together to spread the word to our patrons about how to support TFSF: Donate to the Foundation & Join the Guild!

## TSF 2020 Season

### The Merry Wives of Windsor

William Shakespeare

June 25, July 2, 4, 10\*, 12\*, 17, 19, 23\*, 25\*

### The Book of Will

Lauren Gunderson

June 26, July 3\*, 5\*, 10, 12, 16\*, 18\*, 23, 25

### Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare

June 27, July 3, 5, 9\*, 11\*, 16, 18, 24\*, 26\*

### The Bridges of Madison County

Jason Robert Brown & Marsha Norman

June 28, July 2\*, 4\*, 9, 11, 17\*, 19\*, 24, 26

### The Gnomes of Gnot-a-Hill

Grace Abele & DJ Canady

Children's Production

July 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 (Performances at 10 am)

\* Denotes a matinee at 2:00 pm Evening productions at 7:30 pm

## Guild Activities during the TSF Season

### Behind the Scenes: May 30th, 3-5 PM

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](mailto:kimmacedo@netzero.net) Please contact Kim so that she knows about how many attendees to plan for.

### July Panel Receptions:

July 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th 10:15 am-12:30 pm

These morning discussions follow the previous night's performance. TFSF staff as well as some Company members will be present to lead the discussion, answer your questions, or just chat somewhat informally about the plays. It's another opportunity to dig a little deeper into the artistry of the Festival. Join us as we discover more about this year's performances and enjoy coffee and refreshments in the beautiful Kilgore History and Art Center, 500 N Kilgore St.

### Guild Member Ice Cream Social --July 22nd

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 2020 TSF season!

## 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.



## 2019—2020 Executive Board

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>President</b>                        | <i>Gem Meacham</i>  |
| <b>President—Elect</b>                  | <i>Karen Peters</i>   |
| <b>Recording Secretary</b>              | <i>Sharon Noblit</i>  |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>             | <i>Lois Knouse</i>  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                        | <i>Rhonda Stephens</i>  |
| <b>Past President</b>                   | <i>Claudia Morgan-Gray</i>  |
| <b>VP—Guild Events</b>                  | <i>Kimberly Macedo</i>  |
| <b>Co-VP’s—Company Events</b>           | <i>Eileen Kosnik</i><br><i>Linda Crabtree</i>                                 |
| <b>Co-VP’s—House Events</b>             | <i>Melinda Johnson</i><br><i>Martha Rutherford</i>                            |
| <b>Co-VP’s—Communications</b>           | <i>Martha Dalby</i><br><i>Kate Wells</i><br><i>Lynn Wells, Graphic Design</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><br><i>Matthew Simpson</i>                              |

## TSF SEASON 2020 DIRECTORS



### Sara Valentine

Director, 1st season

*The Merry Wives of Windsor*

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Sara Valentine is a native New Englander and resident of Maine where she is an Assistant Professor and Department Chair in Theatre at the University of Southern Maine. She teaches classes in acting, voice, speech, and the senior seminar. Since 2004, she has created and directed theatre productions for Really Inventive Stuff, a vaudeville-inspired theatre company that presents programs with symphony orchestras throughout North America. Directing credits include: *The Language Archive*; *Twelfth Night*; *The Women Who Mapped the Stars*; *Almost Maine*; *Still Life with Iris*; *A Christmas Carol*; *A Year with Frog and Toad*; *Alice in Wonderland*; *Peter and the Wolf*; *The Story of Babar*. Dialect/voice/text coaching credits include: *Crimes of the Heart*; *A Man of No Importance*; *Tartuffe*; *The Foreigner*; *Orpheus Descending*; *Hamlet*; *The Taming of the Shrew*. Sara has a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre (Ithaca College) and a Master of Fine Arts in Acting (University of Delaware Professional Theatre Training Program). This is Sara’s first season with TSF. [www.SaraValentineDirector.com](http://www.SaraValentineDirector.com)



## **Michael Jenkinson**

Director and Choreographer, 1st season

*The Book of Will, The Bridges of Madison County, The Gnomes of Gnot-a-Hill*

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Michael is thrilled to joining Texas Shakespeare Festival , for their 2020 summer season. Jenkinson is an associate artist for Sacramento Theatre Company, where he works as a director/ choreographer, AEA actor. Formally Michael was in residency with Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA);a company for which he served as an instructor, an AEA actor, and Director/ Choreographer on more than 80 productions. Other companies include: Bozeman Intermountain Opera, Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Summer Repertory Theatre, Sierra Repertory Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Rep, Delaware Theatre Company,The Great American Melodrama, Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre, SLO Repertory, TheatreWorks Palo Alto,Ensemble Theatre Santa Barabra, Phoenix Theatre Company, The Alliance, Geva Theatre Center,and The Old Globe.Michael performed in both the North American and International tours of Grease and Fame The Musical, as well as serving as the dance supervisor for the South Korean tour of Fame The Musical. Jenkinson is a proud member of Actors Equity Association.



## **James Dean Palmer**

Director, 2nd Season

*Romeo and Juliet*

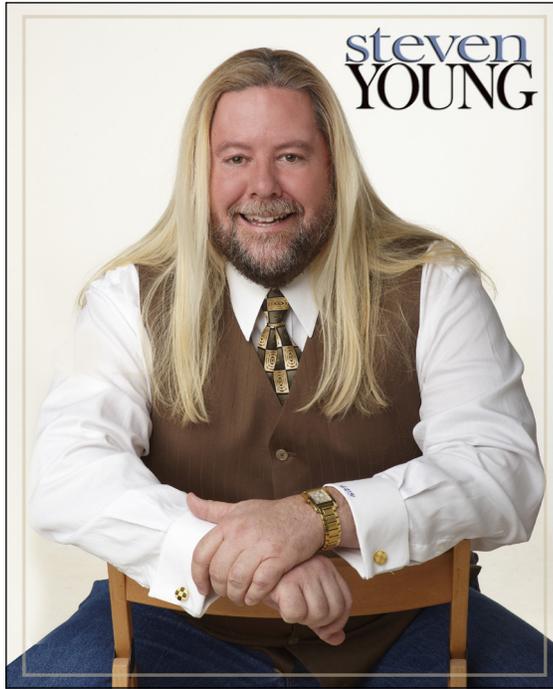
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James is a New York based director and educator. In 2010 he was awarded a Joseph Jefferson award for Best Direction of *The Love of the Nightingale*. New York: *Julius Caesar, In The Open, Grief*. Regional: *Julius Caesar, A Christmas Carol, Conversation Storm*. Chicago: *Lear, Ruby Wilder, Elephant's Graveyard, Gingerbread House, Pullman WA, Church, The Love of the Nightingale, Enemy of the People, Dog in a Manger, Pugilist Specialist, Endgame, Baden Lehrstück, Coriolanus*. Educational: *These Seven Sicknesses, Church, Look Back in Anger, Hamlet, Rocket to the Moon, Neighbors*. James has received fellowships from the Drama League, SDCE, Chautauqua Theatre Company and is a Peter Kaplan Fellow. He received a Master of Fine Arts degree in Directing from Brown University and is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers union. James teaches acting at the Professional Performing Arts School in midtown Manhattan. For nine seasons he served as the artistic director of Red Tape Theatre. James was Martha Lavey and David Hawkanson's assistant at Steppenwolf theatre.

# THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR *featuring*



Psacoya Guinn

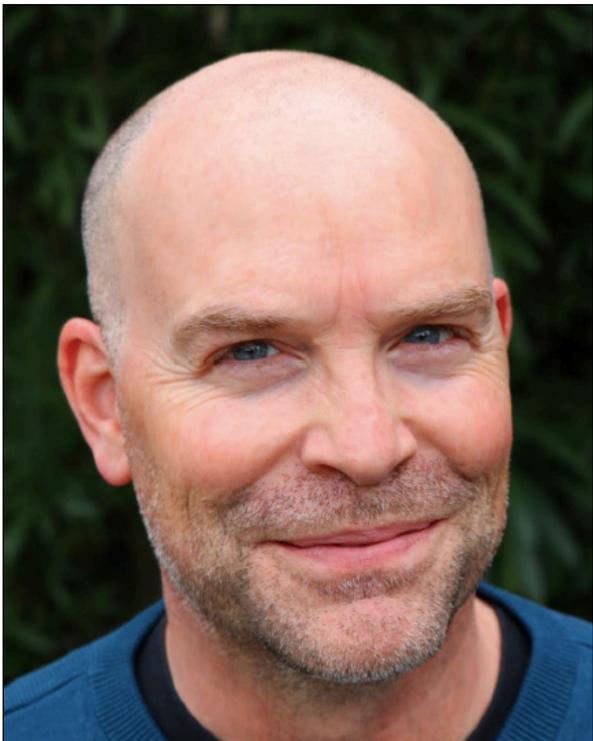


Steven Young



Meaghan Simpson

# THE BOOK OF WILL *featuring*

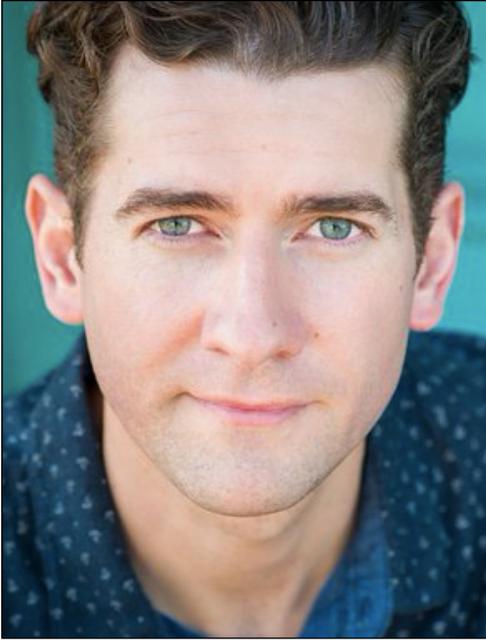


Timothy Fullerton



Matthew Simpson

ROMEO AND JULIET *featuring*



Jeffrey Salsbury



Jo Garcia-Reger

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY *featuring*



Conor Finnerty-Esmonde



Meghan Wright