

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

FALL 2019

2020 Season Announcement

The Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare

“Wives may be merry... and yet honest too.”



This comic romp, featuring the beloved character John Falstaff, takes you on a journey of courtship and the jealous havoc it wreaks. When Falstaff attempts to seduce the wives of two wealthy men of Windsor using identical love letters he is discovered and much confusion ensues. Equal parts farce and true domestic comedy, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* will leave you feeling like Falstaff when he muses: “O powerful love, that in some respects makes a beast a man, in some other a man a beast.”

The Book of Will by Lauren Gunderson

“No one can help the passing of time or friends.”



The year is 1620 and two of William Shakespeare’s dearest friends and fellow actors, John Heminges and Henry Condell, are mourning the loss of their beloved friend and playwright. Deeper than their mourning

is a fear that Shakespeare’s plays will not be passed down accurately and completely. In an effort to honor their friend and reward future generations, they set about to publish a single bound volume of his works called the First Folio. This effort comes with tremendous challenges and incredible triumphs and many laughs and tears along the way. The commitment required to achieve this harrowing task reminds us all that when you believe in something, it is worth preserving.

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

“From ancient grudge break to new mutiny, where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.”

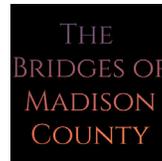


Two households. Young lovers. Bad timing. Feuding families. Rushed wedding. Missed messages. This romantic tragedy is one that we all know in our bones. It is the play that William Shakespeare is most famous for and the story that has been adapted and reproduced more than any of his plays. Although we know the outcome, the fast-paced race to get there makes for a thrilling ride of love, honor, and the unfortunate ending where children teach their parents what really matters in life.

The Bridges of Madison County

Book by Marsha Norman;
Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

“It all fades away... but you.”



Based on Robert James Waller’s 1992 novel, *The Bridges of Madison County* tells the story of the day a blue pick-up truck carrying National Geographic photographer Robert Kincaid rolls up to the home of Francesca Johnson. He is there to photograph the covered bridges, but his presence dramatically changes their lives. Featuring a sweepingly romantic Tony Award-winning score, the music will move you deeply and stay with you long after you leave the theatre.



Following in the tradition of previous seasons, there will be a play for children performed in the Van Cliburn Auditorium and a small cast play performed in the UpStairs space of the Festival Center during July. Those titles will be announced in the coming months.



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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!

The 35th season of the Festival will include the following productions:

The Merry Wives of Windsor by Shakespeare, directed by Paul Barnes; *The Book of Will* by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Michael Jenkinson; and the musical *The Bridges of Madison County*, also directed and choreographed by Mr. Jenkinson. The director for *Romeo and Juliet* will be announced soon.

If ongoing negotiations are successful, we will have three dynamic and very talented directors this summer. Paul Barnes has a varied and extensive resume as one of the most sought-after directors in the regional professional theater world, and for nine plus years, he was the Artistic Director of the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, MN. We have made several previous attempts to recruit Mr. Barnes, but until now, he has always had prior contracts that prevented him from accepting our invitation to come to Texas.

Michael Jenkinson is an actor, choreographer, and director who received his formal training at the Pacific Conservatory

of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, CA, where he has directed, choreographed, and appeared in numerous shows. Michael is another director we have invited to join us on several occasions, but like Mr. Barnes, his talents are in great demand nationwide. Barring any unforeseen obstacles, we will have the good fortune of seeing his talents displayed on our stage this summer.

We have not yet selected the show for our UpStairs Black Box or the show for children, but both productions will occur. You will receive notice about those two productions once we determine the titles.

Raymond Caldwell
TSF Artistic Director



Guild Members Treated to Roadshow Performances

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 20, Guild members and others were treated to a performance of this year's Roadshow productions of *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Van Cliburn Auditorium at Kilgore College. A reception with light refreshments was provided during the intermission between the productions, courtesy of Kim Macedo and other Guild Board members. We appreciate the Roadshow company and staff for making this available for Guild members. Best wishes and "break a leg" to the Roadshow actors

as they tour our area making Shakespeare more accessible to a variety of audiences. Thanks for a glimpse of your wonderful work!



Greetings from Gem Meacham, TSF Guild President

Gratitudes! The Four FORS

- ★ For Raymond Caldwell who founded TSF's theater magic in 1986. Thank You!
- ★ For Kilgore College and the TSF Foundation who contribute financial support. Thank You!
- ★ For 2020 Guild members who joined since June 1. So far, we number 762. Thank You All!
- ★ For Board leadership and volunteers who make my job as 2020 President enjoyable and easy. It is a privilege to serve. Thank you all for the opportunity!

Volunteers Always Needed

As a new Guild year begins, please be reminded that there are many roles to be filled by members before, during, and after the Festival. The Guild Board members and committee heads would love to help you find just the right spots for your time and talents. If you would like to take a more active role, please contact Gem Meacham, Guild President, or any other board member. Email Gem at gemmeacham@gmail.com

TSF Roadshow Members Welcomed

On Monday, September 30th, a group of about thirty people gathered in the UpStairs space to welcome the TSF Roadshow Cast and Crew. Members of the Foundation, Guild Board, Rosa May Griffith Foundation, plus the incoming cast and crew, enjoyed a pasta bar, salad and a selection of desserts before the TSF members had to return to rehearsal.

We look forward to hearing of their success as they hit the road to bring a Shakespeare experience to the small towns in Texas as well as some of the larger ones.



Bottom left: Talkback with Roadshow actors
Top left: Kim Macedo, VP Guild Events and family set up reception provided by Guild.
Bottom right: Audience enjoying the performance.

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET: A LIVE RADIO PLAY



MIRACLE
ON 34th STREET
A Live Radio Play

The most wonderful time of the year is almost upon us, and with it comes the return of our annual holiday production. This year, the Texas Shakespeare Festival will be presenting *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Radio Play*. In this unique radio play version, the actors play multiple roles and use microphones in the style of a 1940's radio drama. This lively adaptation is an inventive twist on a classic story, and will surely get you in the Christmas spirit.

All performances will be held in the Texas Shakespeare Festival's UpStairs Space, located at 815 Houston Street in Kilgore, Texas.

The Guild will host a reception thirty minutes prior to each performance. Come early and enjoy refreshments.

****Because seating is limited, a reservation is required.****

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Friday, December 13th at 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 14th at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 15th at 2:00 pm

TICKET PRICE: \$25, General Admission

Tickets on sale now at <http://texasshakespeare.tix.com>

Announcing *Miracle Girl!*

After a very successful audition process with some incredibly talented young ladies, TSF has cast the role of Susan Walker in *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Radio Play*. Lona Cole, 10 years old, is currently in the 5th grade at Kilgore Intermediate School. She has lived in Kilgore her whole life. She loves theatre and drama and has participated in a

Christmas Cantata as well as skits and mini plays at church. She is very creative and has a really wild imagination. In her spare time, Lona loves to illustrate and write her own stories. She hopes to do theatre in the future. Congratulations to Lona! We look forward to seeing and hearing her in December.

Improvements to the UpStairs Black Box Space

Some wonderful news to share! Thanks to generous gifts from the Bess Rayford Foundation of Henderson and Linda Craig, current President of the TSF Foundation, we will be installing new black velvet curtains to surround the entire rehearsal hall with a passageway for actors between the drapes and the wall, and new commercial grade seating platforms for the audiences. The platforms are portable, made of steel with built-in handrails, aisles, and backside masking. Safe, sturdy platforms can be "collapsed" for easy storage when not in use. The creaky, heavy, homemade plywood platforms with unattractive, wooden 1 X 4 railings will be gone, as will the immovable, overlong curtains that drag on the floor, restrict actors' entrances and exits, and

give the space the appearance of a makeshift and unprofessional performance venue. What a gift! What an upgrade! What a giant leap forward for TSF. It is hard, if not impossible, to find adequate words to express our deep gratitude to those angels who seem never to stop giving of themselves to promote the work of the Festival, so to Bess Rayford, Linda Craig, Sue Brown, Nancy McWhorter, and Jan Jaynes, all of whom have contributed to the renovation of the Black Box Theater – Thank You. Your gifts will continue to be recognized and appreciated by every person who attends a performance UpStairs and every actor and director who works in the beautiful new space.

Sponsor a Texas Shakespeare Festival Artist

For the past four years, many of our generous patrons have accepted our invitation to "Sponsor an Intern" by making a donation of \$250 to allow us to either raise an Intern's salary from \$1,250 to \$1,500 (\$150 a week) or to help pay for their transportation to Texas from wherever they live. The "Sponsor an Intern" project has been so successful and so warmly received and appreciated that several people have asked if we could also offer a way for them to "sponsor" other members of the TSF Company of artists.

This season, therefore, we are expanding the idea and calling it "Sponsor an Artist" to include not only Interns but also any other TSF artists. It will work like this:

A donation of \$250 sponsors an Intern, just as before.

A donation of \$500 sponsors a costumer, a carpenter, a sound engineer, a lighting electrician, a properties artisan, the food service manager, an orchestra musician, the children's show director, or the Stratford Room gift shop manager.

A donation of \$1,000 sponsors a major actor, the choreographer, the production manager, a costume cutter or draper, the costume shop manager, the proper-

ties designer, a stage manager, the master electrician, or the master carpenter.

A donation of \$2,500 sponsors a director, the music/orchestra director, a costume designer, the scenery designer, the sound designer, or the lighting designer.

Interns who are sponsored receive the money, as mentioned above, to increase their meager salary or to help pay for their transportation, whichever they choose. For all of the other positions, the sponsor's donation helps to alleviate the Festival's expense of paying them, thus reducing the burden of the Foundation to raise ever more money to prevent the Festival from ending the year with a deficit.

In every case, however, the name of the Sponsor will be included in the season playbill alongside the photo of the artist as "Sponsored by [name of Sponsor]," and on a plaque in the hallway of the theater. Sponsors' names will also appear on the video screens in the theater foyer. In addition, sponsors are listed in the "Friends of Shakespeare" rostrum under the category that includes the amount of their total donation. Of course, we will honor the request of any sponsor who prefers to remain anonymous.



A Unique Christmas Gift

By the time you read this newsletter, Christmas will be just around the corner. Do you sometimes have trouble deciding what to give to someone who already "has everything" and "needs nothing?" Are you often tempted but hesitant to just slip a gift card into an envelope and be done with it, yet you feel a bit unsatisfied with such an "impersonal" gift?

Consider buying a Texas Shakespeare Festival Gift Certificate! They are available in any amount beginning at \$20, and they can be used to buy tickets, conces-

sions, or gifts and mementoes in the Stratford Room Gift Shop. You can select a generic "voucher," or you can have the certificate personalized to include the name of the recipient and the donor, if you place your order by December 10, before our offices close for the Christmas Holidays. To order using a credit card, call 903-983-8119. If you want us to mail the card for you, please provide the name and address of the recipient. Thank you!

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.



2019—2020 Executive Board

President	<i>Gem Meacham</i>
President—Elect	<i>Karen Peters</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Sharon Noblit</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>Lois Knouse</i>
Treasurer	<i>Rhonda Stephens</i>
Past President	<i>Claudia Morgan-Gray</i>
VP—Guild Events	<i>Kimberly Macedo</i>
Co-VP’s—Company Events	<i>Eileen Kosnik</i> <i>Linda Crabtree</i>
Co-VP’s—House Events	<i>Melinda Johnson</i> <i>Martha Rutherford</i>
Co-VP’s—Communications	<i>Martha Dalby</i> <i>Kate Wells</i> <i>Lynn Wells, Graphic Design</i>
TSF Artistic Director	<i>Raymond Caldwell</i>
TSF Managing Director	<i>John Dodd</i>
TSF Associate Artistic Directors	<i>Meaghan Simpson</i> <i>Matthew Simpson</i>

ROADSHOW WELCOME DINNER



**HOSTED BY TSF
GUILD BOARD**



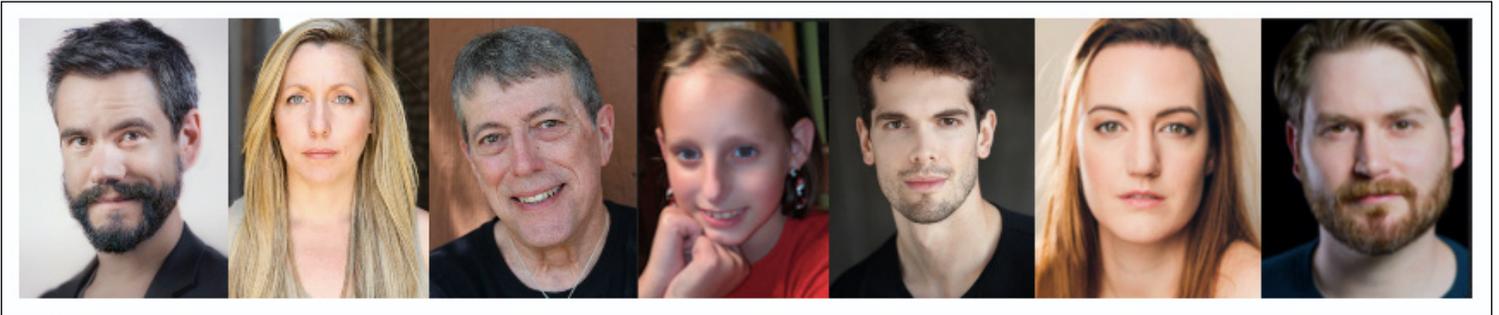




MIRACLE

ON 34th STREET

A Live Radio Play



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