

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF  THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

SUMMER 2018

Notes from Festival Artistic Director, Raymond Caldwell

A Third of a Century

When we finish the 2018 summer season, TSF will be 33 years old –that’s a third of a century! “I am amazed and know not what to say!” In 1986, the average lifespan of a start-up theater was seven years, and no one would have predicted that a Shakespeare Festival located in a small oil town inside the Piney Woods could defy those odds. Yet, here we are, well into our fourth decade, with a thriving Foundation and Guild and selling more than 95% of all

tickets every season! As Sue Brown has often remarked, “It’s the Miracle on Henderson Boulevard!”

All the credit for this miracle goes to Kilgore College, the TSF Foundation and Guild, every individual and organization that has made a financial donation of any size, every theater artist who has worked for the Festival, everyone who has bought a ticket and attended a performance, and anyone who has spoken a kind word of encouragement. Their combined support has made it possible for TSF to employ hundreds of talented theater

artists from all 50 states and several countries and to offer professional productions of some of the world’s greatest plays to all of East Texas. The Festival has now become one of Kilgore’s unique attractions, along with the oil derricks, the Rangerettes, and the film festival.

With your continued support and patronage, TSF will continue to improve, and in the wink of an eye, we will be celebrating its 50th anniversary! Let’s keep the miracle alive.



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It’s ALWAYS about Money, Isn’t It?

In February, the TSF Foundation received a generous challenge grant of \$71,800, for which we are deeply grateful. To receive the money, however, we must match the grant dollar-for-dollar with monies received from other foundations—not from donations from individuals or corporations. This is indeed a challenge, but meeting it will result in \$143,600 for the Festival – money seriously needed if we are to end the season without a deficit.

If you have any connection with a foundation that can help the TSF Foundation match this grant, please contact one of the following people:

Christina Anderson, President of the TSF Foundation – cca@andersonpartners.org (903-926-9286)

Sue Brown, Past-President of the TSF Foundation – Gsuemb@aol.com (903-987-0480 or 903-984-3038)

Raymond Caldwell, TSF Artistic Director – RaymondHCaldwell@att.net (903-983-8117 or 903-261-4479)

We must meet this challenge by August 31, so finding qualified matching funds is a top priority. As always, the Foundation and the Festival are sincerely grateful for every contribution and help.

Thank You to Intern Sponsors

For the third consecutive year, Guild members have responded to our request for “Intern Sponsors” by donating \$250 to offer each Intern a raise from \$1,250 to \$1,500 for their 10-week salary. Thank you to each “Sponsor” for your generosity! Your gesture of concern and hospitality helps set TSF apart from any other theater festival in the country, and the Interns are very grateful. Since the formation of the Guild in 1994, its members have been a real inspiration. Every time we ask for assistance, Guild members rush to show their support. Your contributions are so numerous and frequent, so generous and valuable, that a simple “Thank

You’ is an inadequate expression of our gratitude.

The TSF Guild is a priceless asset, without whose support the Texas Shakespeare Festival could not survive. In addition to sponsoring Interns, Guild members also pay for breakfasts and lunches for the entire Company, purchase needed equipment and supplies, provide generous “Welcome Bags” for the Company, and offer endless hospitality events throughout the season.

For all you do, dear Guild Members, “I can no other answer make but Thanks, and Thanks, and ever Thanks!”

Guild Members Opening Night Receptions

Come early and join other Guild members from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the tented area of the East Courtyard behind the theater building. Refreshments and conversation before the curtain will let you know how much we appreciate your being a member of the Guild. If you are not attending opening nights, come anyway to the receptions—just for the company/Company.

Thursday, June 28: *Love's Labour's Lost*; Friday, June 29: *Tartuffe*;
Saturday, June 30: *King John*; Sunday, July 1: *110 in the Shade*

The 2018 Welcome Dinner

On Tuesday, May 22, about 150 people gathered to officially welcome the 2018 TSF Company. The dinner was held in the Family Center of St Luke's Church on Main Street, walking distance from the TSF center and spacious enough to allow artists and guests to mingle. The Guild self-catered the meal: King Ranch Chicken, cheese and pepper tamales, black bean and corn salad, and green salad. In addition to a sheet cake, many members brought baked goods to expand and enhance the dessert table.

Raymond welcomed everyone and then turned the microphone over to Guild Board President, Claudia Morgan-Gray. She had fun with Texas humor and helped the newcomers understand Texas philosophy!

At 7 PM, it was back to work for the artists, and back home for the guests. Everyone agreed that a good time was had by all, and of course there were bags of cookies for the artists to enjoy later in the evening!

Val Winkelman—30 Years

This is Val Winkelman's 30th consecutive season at TSF, which means she has worked for the Festival longer than anyone other than John Dodd (32 seasons) and Raymond Caldwell (33 seasons). When Val started in 1989, she was finishing her Master of Fine Arts degree in costume design from the University of Texas, where she studied under Dr. Paul Reinhardt, who was the Principal Designer for TSF for 10 years. Val began her long tenure with us as a Cutter/Draper, a position she held for 15 years, during which time she built costumes for 19 TSF shows. From 1990 to 2009, Val designed 18 shows and co-designed (with Dr. Reinhardt) six other shows.

Since 2008, Val has served as Production Manager for the Festival, coordinating the production schedule for all departments, working closely with Managing Director John Dodd. She is also the unofficial Festival Historian, keeping track of archival information, including the popular "Where Are They Now" list, which updates the whereabouts of former TSF company members who have had significant success in their theater careers.

A professor at Auburn University Montgomery since 1990, Val serves as the National Vice-Chair of Design, Technologies, and Management for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. During the past 22 years, Val has presented several programs at national conventions that featured her TSF costume designs, including a retrospective honoring Dr. Reinhardt in Long Beach, California.

For 30 years, Val has shared her talents with TSF, spending more than 180 weeks in Kilgore! Her devotion to the Festival, along with her infectious optimism, is an inspiration to all of us. TSF couldn't have a more effective ambassador. In addition to all of her admirable attributes, Val is proud to say that she is a charter member of the Guild!



Tea with Miss Emily

Join us for an "Afternoon Tea with Miss Emily" at 4 P.M. on July 11, following the matinee performance of *The Belle of Amherst* in the UpStairs Space of the Festival Center. Tickets are \$20, and seating is limited to only 63 people, so make your reservation soon. The Tea will include a variety of savory treats, including the obligatory finger sandwiches (cucumber, carrot and cheese, chicken salad), scones with mock Devonshire cream and jams, fruit kabobs, mini-desserts, and a selection of teas.

Come enjoy live piano music while tea is taken, then participate in a conversational exchange with actress Jennifer Burke about the performance, the play itself, and Emily Dickinson, America's most famous female poet. For reservations, call the ticket office at 903-983-8601 or buy your tickets online at www.TexasShakespeare.com.

Seating for the Tea is unreserved unless you choose to "buy" an entire table of seven. If you would like to decorate one of the nine round tables for the Tea by providing appropriate table settings (tablecloth, napkins, flatware, china, a small flower arrangement, and perhaps a tiered cake server), we invite you to do that. In appreciation for your service, we can offer you one free admission for each table you decorate. Exercise your creative flair, and help make the Tea a colorful, special occasion. To offer your decorating talents, call Raymond Caldwell at 903-983-8117 or 903-261-4479 before July 6.

Post Script: You are not required to attend the July 11 matinee performance of *The Belle of Amherst* in order to attend the Tea, but seeing the performance certainly enhances the experience of having a personal visit with Miss Emily after the performance. Please note, however, that the "Tea Room" will not open until after the 2 P.M. performance is finished, approximately 3:30 P.M.

TSF Roadshow Sponsorships

from Lesa Maatouk, TSF Guild Past President

When my daughter Rima was in high school, she decided to take her best friend to the opera. Rima had already been exposed to opera, the symphony, and ballet. Her friend had not. Since Rima was paying for the tickets from money earned at her part-time job, she could only afford the cheapest tickets. On the day that tickets went on sale, she went early to the box office so that she could get seats in the first row of the cheapest section. She took her friend to see the East Texas Opera's performance of *Madame Butterfly*, and through that generosity, that friend had a chance to see and know something about an artistic endeavor that she might not have encountered otherwise.

It has been two years since TSF reinstated the TSF Roadshow. The Roadshow has brought the beauty of Shakespeare to schools throughout the state of Texas. The diverse groups of actors in the Roadshow and their use of contemporary music in their performances have demonstrated that Shakespeare is relevant to everyone.

I am proposing that we also provide the TSF Roadshow to schools in the East Texas area that are not financially able to pay for a show. The cost of a performance is \$1000. Please consider making a donation to the Roadshow so that we can reach children who otherwise might never be exposed to Shakespeare in a live performance. How wonderful it would be if a child who sees one of the shows decides to be an actor, stage manager, costume designer, director, carpenter, lighting tech, sound tech, scenic designer, or a Guild member! You may donate individually or as part of a group. You may also designate a school for the Roadshow to visit. Please send your donations to TSF and mark them as designated for the Roadshow.

Adopt-an-Artist—Choose Your Venue

This is your opportunity for a one-on-one visit. Guild members can invite two or more company members to dinner or lunch. If you want to know the artists as individuals, this is a great way. Having them in your home or taking them out to a restaurant is equally appreciated. Call John Dodd, 903-983-8119.

Lunch Bunch: Wed., Fri., Sun. thru July 29 Festival Center, Kilgore

Volunteers are needed to bring “extras” for at least 20 people on each Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Your dues provide breakfast every day. On these three Guild lunch days, your dues provide sandwich and salad basics (including green salad and fruits). However, we love to show our East Texas hospitality with extras provided by volunteers. You don’t have to cook; extras can come from carry-out or the grocery store.

By extras, we mean these sorts of items:

- hearty salads (such as potato, pasta, fruit, taco)
- dips/crackers/chips
- sides that do not have to be cooked or reheated since the TSF Center does not have an oven (These could be things such as a pre-cooked casserole, a pot of veggies, a pan of beans, cornbread, or something in a crock pot -- use your imagination.)

- desserts

Approximately 80 company members come to lunch on Guild days. If 3-4 people volunteer to bring for 20, then no Lunch Bunch volunteer has to provide everything. We keep up with the schedule and let you know what others are bringing, or you can recruit friends. For information or to coordinate days and times, email or call:

Eileen Kosnik: 903-330-1946 ekosnik@mac.com

Karen Peters: 903-238- 3742 kspeters05@gmail.com

Strike Dinner – Monday, July 30

Although it seems far away, saying goodbye always arrives before we are ready. You are invited to help make the Strike Dinner a success by bringing a dish for the pot-luck event. The Guild provides the meat entrée. Be sure to mark it on your calendar! It will be held at the Family Center at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church.

Kilgore Restaurants Support the Festival

If you are looking for a place to entertain your Adopt-An-Artist guests, or just want a place for dinner or lunch on the days you have theater tickets, consider the local restaurants who have special promotions to support TSF.

Chili’s, 1212 US Hwy 259 N; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesdays, June 4-July 24. Chili’s will GIVE BACK 15% of your purchase to the Festival on Tuesdays if you mention TSF to your server. 903-988-8104. www.chilis.com

Downtown D-Lites, 103 N. Kilgore Street; 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. Downtown D’Lites Café and Frozen Yogurt Bar offers a 10% discount to TSF patrons who identify themselves. Family-owned with fresh food prepared in the restaurant, D-Lites is a perennial favorite. 903-987-0737. www.downtowndlites.com

Brigitta’s Hungarian Restaurant, 202 ST Hwy 31 E; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. & 4-8 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Brigitta’s offers a 10% discount to the TSF company members, Guild and patrons through July if you identify yourself as TSF. Brigitta’s celebrates their one-year anniversary this summer and continue to serve plentiful quantities of fresh food in a locally-owned, family-run restaurant. 903-331-5642. www.brigittahungarianrestaurant.com

Wish List

Foundation and Guild officers have asked that we create a “Wish List” of things the Festival needs, just in case someone has a preferred area of interest in making a specific donation. The TSF Staff have conferred, and here is the up-to-date list in priority order:

1. Vinyl tile flooring for the lobby/meeting/breakfast area of the Festival Center. This area is approximately 652 square feet, and to cover it with 12” vinyl tiles that either closely resemble or coordinate with those in the adjoining kitchen could cost as little as \$1 per square foot, plus installation. There is no real rush to have any of the flooring installed since we will have to wait until after the summer season is finished and the building is empty.
2. Vinyl tile flooring for the main hallway and offices that matches tile in the lobby as listed above. The total area measures approximately 40’ X 60’, for a total of 2,400 square feet. Currently covered with worn-out green carpet from the 1960s, the floor might cost as little as \$1 per square foot to replace. NOTE: Before removing the old carpet, we may need to have it tested to make sure the underlying mastic is asbestos-free, but the College will take that responsibility and may also install the flooring at no cost to the Festival.
3. Vinyl tile flooring (or an epoxy paint covering) for the two downstairs restrooms in the Festival Center. The men’s restroom has loose tiles and missing baseboards. The men and women’s restrooms combined are approximately 250 square feet, so the estimated cost could be \$250.
4. TSF Banners that hang from the Downtown Light Posts. If you have been in downtown Kilgore during the summer of the past few years, you have seen the attractive three-color TSF banners that hang on every light post lining the main streets. The City of Kilgore hangs our banners in late May and leaves them up through July. At other times of the year, they hang different banners that belong to the Rangerettes and to the City itself. Our TSF banners are beginning to fade, and we have never had enough of them to hang on every post, which would double their effectiveness. Each banner costs approximately \$60. There are 60 posts downtown equipped to hold them, so to buy a new one for every post will cost about \$3,600. But if someone would like to buy only one or two, that is great!
5. Black velour drapes to surround the UpStairs Black Box performing space. The drapes we are currently using do not belong to TSF. We borrowed them from the Theater Department, and we will need to return them when requested. The ones we are using are far too long and folded under at the floor, making it unsafe for actors to make “backstage” crosses. What we need are drapes of the correct length and the traveler-rail hardware from which they hang. A Dallas company came to visit and submitted two quotes – one that includes replacement of just the existing drapes and hardware for a cost of \$6,500; the other quote includes surrounding the entire rehearsal hall at a total cost of \$13,500. Either job will provide versatile use of the drapes, allowing for a safe “backstage” passageway and limitless options for entrances and exits.
6. Two new male dress forms for the Costume Shop. TSF hires three times as many male actors as female actors, simply because Shakespeare’s characters are predominantly male, since in his day, females could not appear on stage. Young men and boys played Juliet, Lady Macbeth, and all the other female roles. Consequently, our costume shop must build more costumes for men than for women, but we own only 2 male costume forms – a size 38 and a size 42. The Costumers have asked for two new male forms, sizes 36 and 40. New forms cost \$299 each and are available only on-line.

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.



2017—2018 Executive Board

President	<i>Claudia Morgan-Gray</i>
President—Elect	<i>Gem Meacham</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Sharon Noblit</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>Lois Knouse</i>
Treasurer	<i>Sue Brown</i>
Past President	<i>Lesla Maatouk</i>
Co-VP’s—Guild Events	<i>Kim Macedo</i> <i>Rebecca McElyea</i>
Co-VP’s—Company Events	<i>Eileen Kosnik</i> <i>Karen Peters</i>
Co-VP’s—House Events	<i>Melinda Johnson</i> <i>Martha Rutherford</i> <i>Martha Dalby</i>
VP—Communications	
TSF Artistic Director	<i>Raymond Caldwell</i>
TSF Managing Director	<i>John Dodd</i>
TSF Artistic Associates	<i>Meaghan Simpson</i> <i>Matthew Simpson</i>

Hats Off to Shakespeare



Hats Off to Shakespeare

On April 23rd, the volunteers who bring food for the TSF company during the season were treated to a celebration of Shakespeare on his birthday, and maybe even more importantly, a celebration of them! The conference room of the Kilgore Oil Museum was the setting for the fun. Dips, a cheese tray, and a variety of desserts were the fare, served from 4:30 until 6 pm. We even had a visit from Vincent, who accompanied his parents but stole the show! He did enjoy the cookies.

These faithful volunteers, better known as the Lunch Bunch, bring supplements to the usual fare of salad and cold cuts for sandwich making (or whatever other treat Sarah Fish has cooked up) on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. They also supply food for the crew during the changeover. If you would like to be of help this year, there are still openings in the schedule. Please contact Karen Peters, keeper of the Food Log (kspeters05@gmail.com) for open dates. We try to make sure that the artists receive a variety of food, so be prepared to be specific when you sign up, and include your phone number. The Company is a very appreciative audience for whatever favorites you might choose to bring!



TSF Welcome Dinner







Adopt-an-Artist Potato Day



Foundation & Guild Welcome Bags

