

# Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

SUMMER 2019

## It's Festival Time!

“Welcome. Set down your venerable burden...” Act II, Scene 7, *As You Like It*

As the Guild, we look at this time of year as the high point for which our organization exists: helping the Festival, its Company, and the TSF staff create the season that year after year gives so much to our region and state. When all of us enter the theater, we enter that special space where magic can become real, where characters reveal to us the best, worst, and funniest sides of humanity, where we can laugh, cry, and imagine together with all those who happen to be there in the room with us. For those hours and minutes, we can indeed “set down [our] venerable burdens,” whatever they may be, and enter a world carefully created for all of us lucky enough

to be there. No electronics, no screen between us—just people responding to people in a very human creation. THAT is the foundation for all that has grown so successfully since 1986—and that is what keeps us coming back year after year, looking for ways we can help

our Festival continue, ways we can support and connect with all those who imagine, create, and present that magic of theatre. Whether you bring sustenance for the Company for Lunch Bunch, greet one night’s audience at the doors of the theater, make a donation of time or money or even stapling skills (!), you as members of the Guild have a role in that very human creation.

“Thanks and thanks and ever thanks” for all you have done, for all that you are doing, and all that you will do. You are appreciated far beyond “measure for measure.” Enjoy this wonderful season to come! And if by chance you are reading this and are not yet a member of our group, be sure to visit the Guild Table in the theater foyer during any performance to join us in our joyous mission. See you at the shows!



## Be Ready to Answer the Call

As you may have already discovered, being a member of the Green Group in the Guild puts you on the front line of notification when the Festival has a sudden need, and we are called on to help. This could

range from filling the gaps in the Lunch Bunch schedule, to providing empty but interesting liquor bottles, to joining a small army of people to staple LOTS of foliage to a piece of scenery. If you are not already

in the Guild Green Group, which receives the newsletter and other notifications via email, please consider signing up today. You’ll never be “out of the loop”!



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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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## Festival and Guild Events at a Glance

### Opening Nights

All show times 7:30 PM: *As You Like It*, June 27; *Born Yesterday*, June 28; *Othello*, June 29; *Into the Woods*, June 30. Talk Backs with cast and crew following each show give the audience a chance to ask questions of all those involved in that night's production.

### Talent Showcase

One of the delightful Festival traditions that has grown over the years is the annual Talent Showcase, where we get to see members of the Company in "other roles." There is singing, maybe dancing, and laughs for sure. There will be two performances this year: 2 PM and 7:30 PM on Wed., July 24th. An Ice Cream Social will be sponsored by the Guild with each performance.

### Chinese Theatre Night

Another tradition that has developed since 2009 is the visit from Chinese theater artists from Chongqing and Shanghai who come to study at the Festival and present an original piece that premieres at TSF. This year's performance will be on Tuesday, July 23, at 7:30 PM. Admission is free, but reservations are required. The audience is invited to join the company for a post-performance reception.

### Pre-Show Introductions

These are held promptly at 6:30 PM before the evening shows on Thursday and Friday in the lobby of the theater. You can learn about the history and storyline of the play you are about to see, as well as elements of its design and info. about the artists in the play. These introductions last about 15 minutes and are free, but seating is limited.

### Panel Discussions

Join TSF associates and a panel of artists on Saturday morning at 11:00 AM for discussion of the previous night's play at the Coffee Cherry Bookstore located at 1012 Houston St. in Kilgore. Admission is free, and discussions last about an hour.

### Open Change-Over

After every matinee, the audience is invited to watch the Festival's amazing technical crew change over the set and lights in preparation for the evening performance. If you have never seen this process, it is quite fascinating—almost ballet-like in its precision and coordination. A TSF Company member will informally narrate each changeover. Admission is free.

## Guild Member Receptions

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

Look for the reception in the Van Cliburn Lobby before the opening of each show. Refreshments will be served 6:30—7:15 PM as a pre-show special way to say THANK YOU, GUILD MEMBERS!

## Guild Member Ice Cream Social—July 24th

After the matinee and before the evening performances of the Stage to Screen Talent Showcase, enjoy refreshing ice cream provided for Guild Members and prospective members. Join us at 3:30 PM (after the 2:00 PM performance) and at 6:30 PM (before the 7:30 PM performance).

## Fabulous Foundation/Festival Fundraiser



This year's TSF Foundation raffle brings another opportunity to win a "bucket list" kind of excursion. Buy a raffle ticket to win a one-week trip for two to Florence, Italy! The winner will receive round-trip airfare for two to Rome and first class round-trip train fare for two to Florence, six nights' stay at a first class hotel in Florence arranged by Katie Herrington, a guided twelve-hour day-trip through the Tuscan countryside, and \$1,000 spending cash. Estimated value of the trip is \$5,000. Tickets are \$100 each, and only 350 tickets will be sold.

The drawing will be held during intermission of the evening performance of *Into the Woods* on Sunday, July 28th, the final night of the Festival. Tickets can be purchased online, in the lobby, and at the Ticket Office. Credit cards welcome! The Italy raffle is sponsored by A.P. and Susie Merritt and Richard and Christina Anderson with special arrangements by Katie Herrington. Travel must be completed by August 1st, 2020.



Left: The Guild provides free extra toiletries to the company at Poor Yoricks General Store.



Right: Welcome bags provided by the Guild for arriving company members.

## Opportunities to Support the Company and Festival

The TSF Guild so appreciates your membership, which provides volunteers, food, support, and many extras for this year's TSF Company of 98 members, who are from 26 different states and 2 foreign countries.

Guild members, if they choose, can meet, interact with, and host the artists who design, build and act in the five productions. It is engaging, stimulating, and satisfying to participate in some or all of these ways. Here are some opportunities to enjoy our artists.

### Adopt an Artist—Your Venue

You can arrange personal social engagements with two or more company members by inviting them to lunch, dinner, or a special event. It is an exciting way to know them as individuals. To Adopt-an-Artist, contact John Dodd, 903-983-8119; [jdodd@texasshakespeare.com](mailto:jdodd@texasshakespeare.com).

### Kilgore Restaurants Offer Festival Patrons Discounts

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 for TSF Company and Guild members, plus theater patrons.

**Downtown D'Lites Café**, 103 N. Kilgore Street; Monday-Saturday 11 AM—3 PM. Downtown D'Lites offers a 10% discount if you identify yourself as with TSF when ordering. Family-owned with fresh food prepared in the restaurant, D'Lites is a perennial local favorite. 903-987-0737 or cell 704-219-1188

**Brigitta's Hungarian Restaurant**, 202 State Hwy. 31E; Tuesday-Saturday, 11 AM—2 PM & 4 PM—8 PM. Brigitta's offers a 10% discount if you identify yourself as with TSF when ordering. Brigitta's celebrates its two-year anniversary this summer and continues to serve plentiful quantities of fresh food prepared in a locally-owned, family-run restaurant. 903-331-5642; [www.brigittahungarianrestaurant.com](http://www.brigittahungarianrestaurant.com)

**Lunch Bunch**—June 9-July 29—Festival Center, 815 Henderson St., Kilgore

Volunteers are needed to bring “extras” for at least 20 people on each Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday. Thank you to those volunteers who have already been participating since May 20 when the Company arrived. Remember that your Guild dues provide breakfast six days a week and sandwich /salad lunch basics three days a week. To supplement those basics, the Guild encourages members to show our East Texas hospitality by bringing “extras.” Volunteers bring offerings to “feed a starving artist” during their lunch hour on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Suggestions for “extras” include but are not limited to the following:

hearty salads (such as potato, pasta, fruit, taco)

dips / crackers / chips

sides that do not have to be cooked or reheated, (such as a pre-cooked casseroles, a pot of veggies, a pan of beans, cornbread, or something in a crock pot—use your imagination) desserts

You don't have to cook; extras can come from carry-out or the grocery store. For information and to coordinate days and lunch times (which vary), contact Karen Peters, 903-238-3742 (voice/text).



### Will's Attic and Stratford Room Gift Shop

If you have nice glassware, what-nots, or other items that you think theatregoers might buy, consider giving them to the Festival (please, no books or linens). For information, contact John Dodd, 903-983-8119; [jdodd@texasshakespeare.com](mailto:jdodd@texasshakespeare.com)

### Strike Dinner—Monday, July 29

And then it is time to say goodbye. The Guild sponsors a potluck dinner on Strike Day as a final send-off. The dinner will be held at the Family Center, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 401 E. Main, Kilgore. You will receive notice in July, but in case you want to plan ahead, the assignments according to your last name are as follow: A-G Side Dish; H-O Salad; P-Z Dessert. The Guild provides the meat and bread.

### Guild Table—Theater Lobby

When you attend the shows in the Van Cliburn Theater, be sure to stop by the Guild table. You can pick up a wearable, temporary lapel sticker which proudly proclaims that you are a “TSF GUILD MEMBER.” You can also renew your membership for the 2020 season at the Guild table, at the box office, or online.

And again...many, many thanks for all that your Guild membership contributes to the TSF season!

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Like us on Facebook @TexasShakesGuild and post photos of your Adopt-an-Artist outings or your Lunch Bunch offerings. Also, you can follow us on Twitter @TXShakesGuild and perhaps post your TSF activities on your OWN Twitter feed.

## 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 Kosnik</i><br><i>Karen Peters</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>                              |

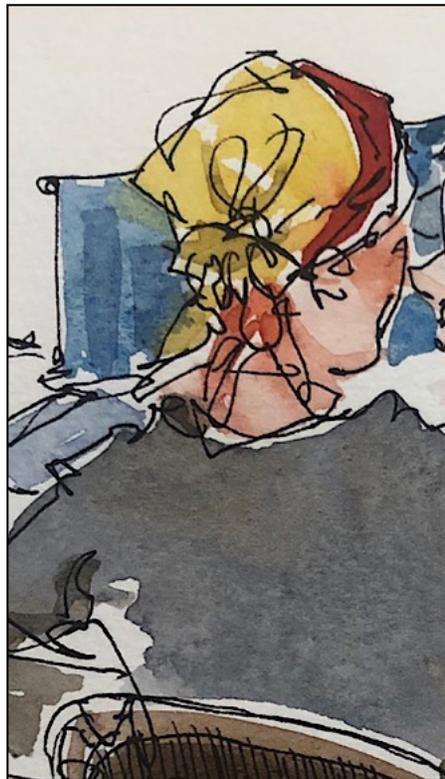
## sketching Behind the scenes at TSF

*This has been my best TSF summer since I started volunteering 22 years ago. Raymond Caldwell graciously has allowed me full access to the Festival to sketch the company as they prepare their magic. I have always been impressed with these professionals from around the country who descend on us every summer, but never more so than this year as I have had the privilege to observe and sketch them first hand. I am so excited for the start of the Festival and so grateful to have been afforded this opportunity to meet and observe these talented artists. I look forward to more sketching in the weeks to come.*

*Lynn Potter Wells*

To view all the TSF sketches: Instagram: @lynnwells1053 FaceBook: lynnpotterwells

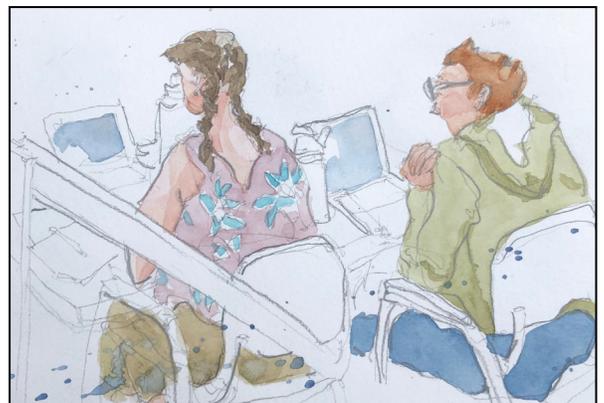
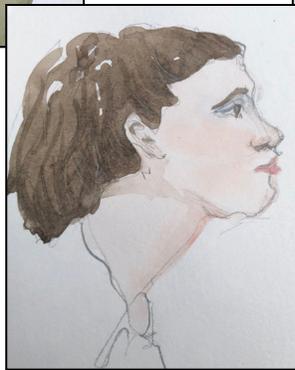




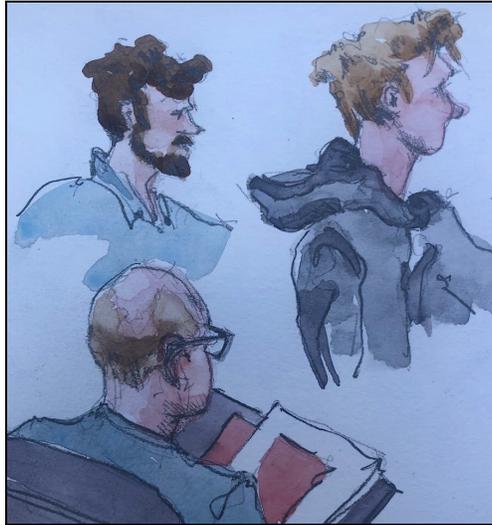
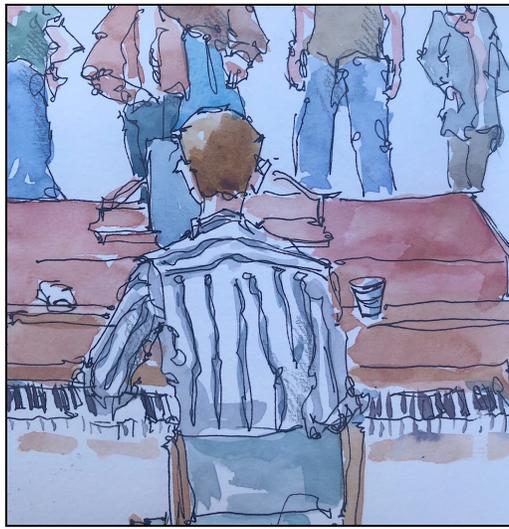
# "As You Like It" Rehearsal



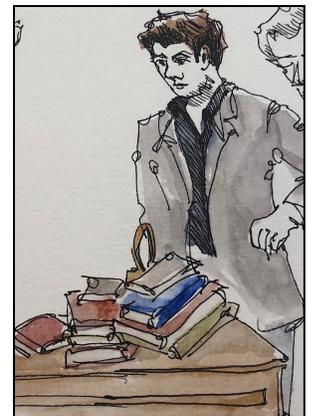
# "Othello" Rehearsal



# "Into the Woods" Rehearsal



# "Born Yesterday" Rehearsal



# Guild and Monday Night Events

