

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

SUMMER 2023

Welcome to the 2023 Season of the Texas Shakespeare Festival

From Karen Peters, TSF Guild President

As I am writing this, it is almost the first of June! All of the company members are in residence. They are busy building sets, painting anything that will stand still, sewing and fitting costumes, gathering and making props, working on lighting and sound, selling tickets, and preparing the Stratford Room for sales of everything Shakespeare! But—I think I have

overlooked something! Oh, yes!!! The actors are rehearsing, learning where to stand, when to enter, etc. All this activity is happening in order to give you, the patrons, an absolutely perfect summer of professional theater.

The Guild Board will be sending you a membership renewal letter for the 2024 season. Inside you will find a letter from Linda Crabtree,

President Elect; a return envelope; and the form to complete and return with your check or credit card information. Please continue your membership for 2024 and help us as we show the company our “Kilgore” Hospitality.

That’s all I have for now! I will see you at the theater this summer. Be sure to stop by the Guild table and the podium for the Foundation.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Guild Membership Drive	2
TSF Raffle	2
Teen Acting Company.....	2
Lunch Bunch.....	3
Adopt-an-Artist.....	3
Guild Officers Slate	3
Season Sketcher.....	3
Green Group.....	4
Guild Board.....	4

35 Vibrant Seasons with Val!

The 2023 season marks Val Winkelman’s 35th summer with TSF. She has become one of the foundational members of the Company, involved with so many aspects of the productions. Her current title is Production Manager. In her first years here at Kilgore, she worked closely with her mentor, acclaimed designer Dr. Paul Reinhardt. The photo below shows Val and Paul (center) in those early years of TSF.

My grandfather, Butch Price, grew up in the oil field industry from the time he was born in the 1910’s, and “Doc” Lloyd and Dad Joiner were legendary. One of the first seasons that my husband and I worked at TSF, my grandparents came to visit the cast of *The Daisy Bradford 3* and regale them with stories about what it was like to work in the oil fields during the 1920’s and 30’s.

Do you have a favorite TSF costume?

The costume I designed for Prospero in the 1993 production of *The Tempest* woven out of the plastic rings used to hold six packs of beverages together. The whole company, and some local vendors, pitched in to collect them.

What is your favorite thing about East Texas and Kilgore?



The community of people that I have met, as well as the hospitality and food! Val is not on the stage, but she is integral to making what IS on the stage work well and look amazing.



Meaghan Simpson managed to capture a few words from Val recently as she works during her 35th season:

Do you have a favorite TSF memory?

Thanks so much for devoting 35 summers to TSF!

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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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2024 Guild Membership Drive

From Linda Crabtree, President-Elect

To all who renewed your Guild Membership for 2023 – THANK YOU! Our company receives breakfast and lunch because of you. There are opportunities throughout the season to participate in other ways as well. Year after year, our company has loved the “East Texas hospitality” provided by the faithful participation of our Guild members and our shared love of all things TSF.

Soon you will receive a membership letter for 2024. Please complete the form with all of the required information. Return it in the enclosed envelope with your check, or you can join online at www.texasshakespeare.com/join-the-guild. There will be a reminder letter in the fall, but your renewal now truly helps us when making plans for next year.

Membership Secretary Lois Knouse reports this season’s membership in the Guild at 746; 59 of those are new to the Guild and 95 have already renewed for 2024. We are always looking for a few more “good members,” so please consider renewing now – and invite your friends and neighbors! Share the joy that is TSF! If you are interested in becoming more involved with Guild activities, please call, text, or email Linda Crabtree, 903-918-1365, lcrabtree795@gmail.com. We’ll be thrilled to have you!

TSF Raffle



The English Cotswolds

Help the Festival by purchasing one or more \$100 raffle tickets for the English countryside replete with Jane Austen’s Regency-era settings. The Cotswolds feature rolling English hills, grand mansions, and picturesque villages. This region is designated an “Area of Outstanding Beauty” to conserve its natural environment and historic locales. Located near Stratford-on-Avon and Bath, the Cotswolds are a premier English tourism destination. Only 350 chances will be sold at \$100 each. The winning raffle ticket includes a stay at a Cotswolds’ cottage sleeping four, airfare for two, and \$1,000 spending money.

This link takes you to information and photos of the property. <https://www.oliverstravels.com/britain-ireland/cotswolds/quenington-cottage/>

TSF Welcomes Local Teens to the Acting Company

After the great success of utilizing local talent last summer, TSF has invited five local students to create a "Teen Acting Company." The ensemble is made up of TSF alums Nathan Bachtell and Sophia Yastrebov, as well as newcomers Ben Hatfield, Brayden Revis and Dina Zeid. These incredibly talented young actors will be featured in *The Comedy of Errors*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Lear*, and *Something Rotten!* as well as serving as understudies throughout the season.



Nathan Bachtell
Teen Acting Company



Sophia Yastrebov
Teen Acting Company



Ben Hatfield
Teen Acting Company



Brayden Revis
Teen Acting Company



Dina Zeid
Teen Acting Company

The Latest on Lunch Bunch 2.0

Hello, all you Lunch Bunch-ables!!! We've had a lot of moving parts about Lunch Bunch for this season, and while there may still be some moving parts, we've come up with a plan for a modification (or experiment if you like) for this season. We're excited for the experiment and hope you are too; we'll see how it goes. With your help and some fine-tuning, we're confident it will work and be fun and be delicious as always.

So—the new version of Lunch Bunch takes into consideration that there will be no assigned staff member at the center to handle and deal with the food this year. It's important that you hear that —because there is no staff for the kitchen, please do not surprise TSF with food. We want this all to work great for everyone, so please coordinate ANY food drop-offs with Eileen and/or Claudia. If you check with us in advance, we will arrange to meet you and accept the food.

Back to Lunch Bunch -- Lunch Bunch this season will be one meal per week, and Guild members and volunteers will be the workforce behind this popular venture for the company. You can volunteer to participate in one or many ways: fix/buy and bring food; serve the food to the

company (even if you don't cook any more, you can sign up to volunteer to help serve and clean up and get time to meet/see the company members); and clean up after the fun and fellowship. The target “one day a week” is going to be Sunday; however, if you—or you and others—prefer to bring and serve and/or clean up on a day other than Sunday, we are open to work on a modified day.

Lunch Bunch Sunday began on June 4th. Cold food that does not require cooking or heating may be prepared and left in the fridge on Saturday or Saturday evening for the Sunday lunch (noon) if that works better for you. Just please coordinate delivery with Claudia and Eileen for alternate times. This first time with the new schedule we will be working out some kinks, so thank you in advance for your patience, participation and support. If you are free to help or bring food, please contact either **Claudia Morgan-Gray** (phone or text) at 903-646-0506 or **Eileen Kosnik** (phone or text) at 903-330-1946. Our emails are claudiam@weldonrgray.com or ekosnik@mac.com

Thank you for your help and participation in the Lunch Bunch,
Claudia and Eileen

Adopt-an-Artist—Your Venue

Guild members can “adopt” two or more company members as their special guests for lunch, dinner, or a special event. Lasting friendships with TSF artists are forged during this one-on-one contact. Knowing TSF artists as individuals is a unique connection that resonates with both Guild and company members. To adopt-an-artist, contact John Dodd, 903-983-8119, jdodd@texasshakespeare.com; or Val Winkelman, vjwquick@aol.com.

Guild Officer Slate for 2023—2024

The Guild Nominating Committee presents our slate of officers for the coming year, Sept. 1, 2023-Aug. 31, 2024. At the annual Guild membership meeting on July 31, members can vote in-person and nominate alternatives from the floor. The meeting follows the 5:30 PM Strike Dinner when we bid farewell to our 2023 season artists. An online ballot will be sent in July for those unable to attend.

The nominees are as follows:

- ✓ **Linda Crabtree – President**
- ✓ **Sharon Noblit – President Elect**
- ✓ **Ruth Anne Camp – Recording Secretary**
- ✓ **Lois Knouse – Membership Secretary**
- ✓ **Louise Cochran -- Treasurer**

Season Sketcher

Throughout the summer, TSF has invited local artist (and Guild Member!) Lynn Wells to document Festival happenings with her sketches. Lynn is a member of the East Texas Urban Sketchers group and also shares her work to her own social media page on Instagram at @lynnwells1053.



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!

• **Green Group** — 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.*

To join the Green Group, send an email to LEKnouse2020@outlook.com. Please be sure to include your name. Sometimes it is difficult to identify you by your email address.



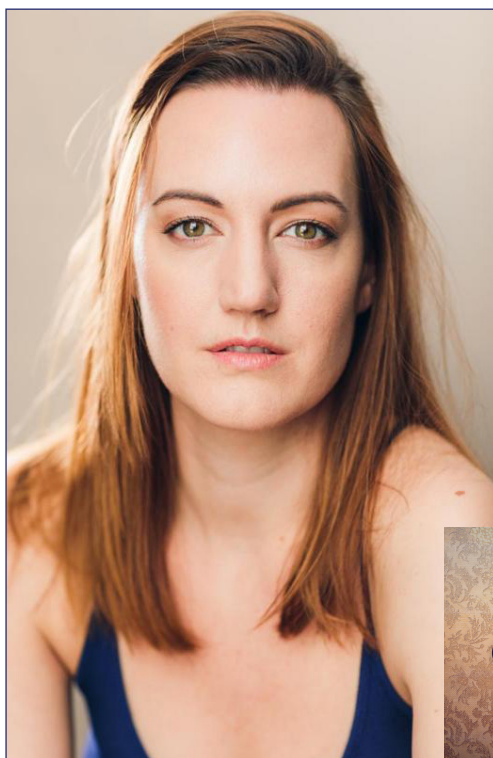
2022—2023 Executive Board

President	<i>Karen Peters</i>
President—Elect	<i>Linda Crabtree</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Ruth Anne Camp</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>Lois Knouse</i>
Treasurer	<i>Louise Cochran</i>
Past President	<i>Gem Meacham</i>
VP—Guild Events	<i>Kimberly Macedo</i>
	<i>Kristina Wait</i>
Co-VPs—Company Events	<i>Eileen Kosnik</i>
	<i>Claudia Morgan-Gray</i>
Co-VPs—House Events	<i>Melinda Johnson</i>
	<i>Martha Rutherford</i>
	<i>Sharon Noblit</i>
Co-VPs—Communications	<i>Martha Dalby</i>
	<i>Kate Wells</i>
	<i>Lynn Wells, Graphic Design</i>
	<i>Meaghan Simpson</i>
TSF Artistic Director	<i>John Dodd</i>
TSF Managing Director	<i>Matthew Simpson</i>
TSF Associate Artistic Director/ Director of Development	

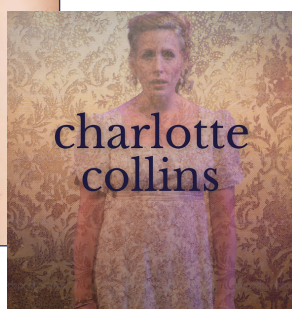
Sunday Lunches Provided by The Lunch Bunch



And Once Again-Here Are Our Directors!



Grace Abele



Director: *Charlotte Collins*

Grace has performed in four summer seasons with TSF, as well as the 2019 RoadShow Tour and Christmas show. Her original children's plays for Texas Shakespeare include *The Lovely Stepsister*, *The Girl Who Cried Throgmonster*, and last year's play co-written with DJ Canaday, *The Gnomes of Gnot-a-Hill*. Grace served for 18 months as resident playwright and composer at Gyeonggi English Village in South Korea and is premiering a short film titled *Miss Susie Had a Steamboat: A Goat Scream Sonata* this year in film festivals. Favorite roles at TSF include Betty Jean in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*, Nerissa in *The Merchant of Venice*, and Helena in the Roadshow production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Whitney Branran



Director: *Something Rotten!* Festival Choreographer

Whitney has worked across the country (Bally's Casino in Las Vegas) and across the ocean (three "Pick of the Fringe" award-winning trips to the International Fringe Festival). She was the resident tap-coach for the Broadway show *Billy Elliot* and two of its national tours. Whitney was the world-premiere choreographer of *Changing Minds* for Theatrical Rights Worldwide and choreographed *The Irish and How They Got That Way* Off-Off Broadway at Queens Theatre in the Park. A favorite director/choreographer credit is crafting four musical productions aboard the American Queen, the largest luxury paddle boat in the world. She directed/choreographed four music videos for songwriter Amy Barkley. She is the founder/owner of Dramatic Movement and teaches dance at Rhodes College. Selected regional director/choreographer credits: *Camelot*, *Newsies*, *Oklahoma*, *The Taming*, *Head Over Heels*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Mamma Mia*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live*, *Hairspray*, and *Shockheaded Peter*. She is a proud Member of SAG-AFTRA, AEA, and SDC unions. This is her second season with TSF, having directed the 2022 production of *The Music Man*. Lots of love to Danny, her husband.



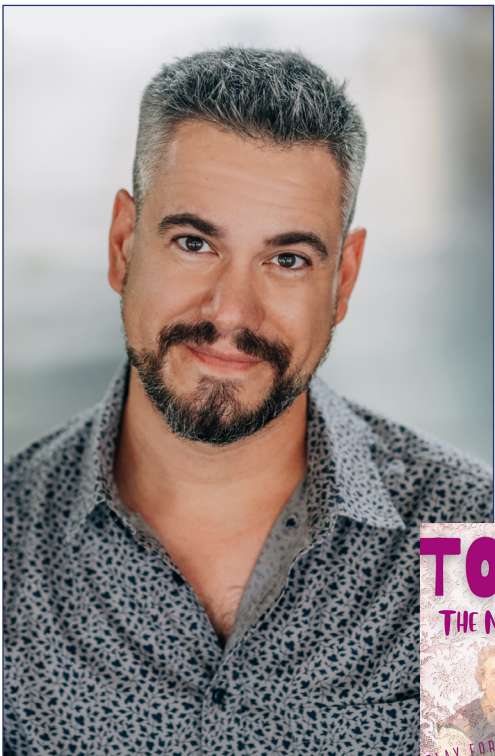
Susan Felder



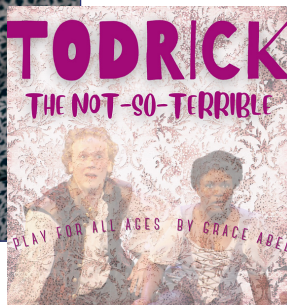
Director, *Pride & Prejudice*

Susan Felder has been a professional actor, director and educator for over 20 years. Her play *Wasteland* received a critically acclaimed world premiere at Chicago’s Timeline Theatre. Other scripts include *Temple Spirit* (1st premiered at Echo Theatre - Dallas) and work-shopped by the House Theatre of Chicago; *Swimming with Van Gogh*—chosen for the 2012 Arkansas New Play Festival, *Milky Way and Main*—selected for the Judith Karman Play Festival and *Jumping Mouse*, a short play written for Kids in Distress. She is currently in research for a play about women in the Gold Rush era of Montana. She has taught theatre with a focus on Acting, Shakespeare and Movement at CCM-College Conservatory of Music, Loyola University – Chicago, Northwestern University, Montana State University and Oklahoma State University. She holds an MFA from

George Washington University and the Academy for Classical Acting. Directing credits include *The Quiet Man Tales* (2 Jeff nominations) at The Chicago Theatre, *A Love Lost Life: The Marlon Brando Story* at the Theatre Building, *Waiting for Godot*, the American premiere of *The Blue Hour*, *A Son at the Front*, and *House of Butterflies* for Loyola University and *Hamlet* for CCM - College Conservatory of Music. Ms. Felder has directed *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Romeo and Juliet* for Montana Shakespeare and *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* for Richmond Shakespeare Festival. She has acted as verse coach for numerous Shakespeare productions around the country, most recently with Aaron Posner and Teller (Penn and Teller) at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

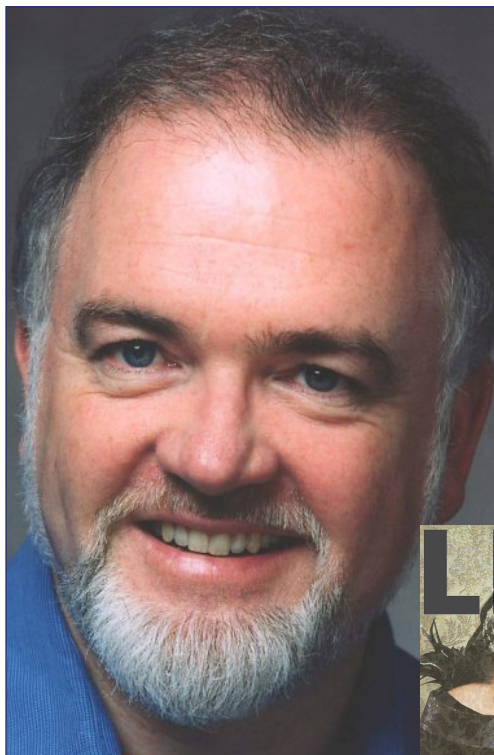


Micah Goodding



Director, *Todrick the Not-So-Terrible*

Micah Goodding earned his Master of Fine Arts degree at East 15 Acting School in the UK where he completed a residency with Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre and became certified with the British Academy of Dramatic Combat. While living in Austin, he played Aaron in the regional premiere of *Laramie Project: 10 Years Later* and Edmund in *King Lear* at the Vortex Repertory Theatre. He has been featured in several independent short films which have been official selections at national film festivals and recently appeared in web promotions for Identity Card. Some of Micah’s recent TSF roles include Richard in *Richard III*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, and *Tartuffe* in *Tartuffe*. Micah is also a puppeteer. His puppets have appeared in London, Chicago, and elsewhere. He currently serves as Theatre Director and Instructor at Kilgore College where he and his students have recently staged *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*. He holds certifications with the Society of American Fight Directors, Texas Theatre Adjudicators Association, and the Voice and Speech Teachers Association. Micah is “bursting with gratitude” to be returning to TSF for his ninth season.



George Judy

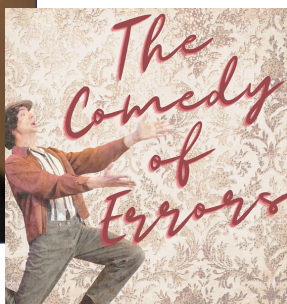


Director, *Lear*

George Judy is a member of Actors' Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild. His credits as an actor, writer, director and educator include work with the Royal National Theatre Studio, London, The Asolo Theatre, Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Pennsylvania Centre Stage, Illinois Shakespeare Festival and twelve seasons with the Tony award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival where he performed such favorite roles as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* and Polonius in *Hamlet*. Most recent credits include Beverly Weston in Swine Palace's *August: Osage County*, Lear in Swine Palace's *King Lear* and Falstaff in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Richelieu in *The Three Musketeers* and Alonso in *The Tempest* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival under the direction of Deb Alley. His many regional credits include musical roles such as Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Joe in *Damn Yankees*, Frederik in *A Little Night Music* and Mack the Knife in *Three Penny Opera* as well as a stint as a Singing Ringmaster with Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey. This is George's third season with TSE.



Matt Zambrano



Director, *The Comedy of Errors*

As a member of Actor's Equity Association, Zambrano's diverse resume includes roles with companies such as The Shakespeare Theatre of D.C., Orlando Shakes, Philadelphia Theater Company, Utah Shakespeare Festival, The Denver Center Theater Company, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and others. He graduated from the National Conservatory in 2012 and currently works as a writer/performer/director for New York based companies The Story Pirates, Recent Cutbacks! and Broken Box Mime Theater. Matt is also a nationally acclaimed ordained Reverend and Spoken-Word Artist and was a semi-finalist at the National Poetry Slam in 2007. Previous solo works include *Falstaff/Fatman*, *Invisible Idiot*, and *Epic Punch Out: The Return of Little Mac!!*