

Stratford Tribune

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL GUILD

FALL 2026

Making a Difference

Sharon Noblit, TSF Guild President

As the leaves turn to shades of red and gold, and the air takes on a refreshing chill, the scents of autumn begin to appear. I have not seen the cooler temperatures or a drop of rain, but the first day of fall did arrive.

Does your house have scented candles of cinnamon, nutmeg, apples, and pumpkin? Will you be looking ahead to the Festival of Trees, arts and crafts shows,

the Yamboree, Oktoberfest, and fall decorations? Each season brings its own memories, different clothes to wear, drinks like spice tea and hot chocolate, decorations with scarecrows and hay, mums planted in flower beds, and the announcement of the 42nd TSF season.

Yes, fall is a special time of Thanksgiving, and it includes the TSF Guild. I am thankful for a board whose members make a difference in their schools, churches, and com-

munity. I am thankful for the Guild members who volunteer, respond to requests for items, promote the Festival, and attend the plays.

Please renew your Guild membership if you have not done so, either by mail or online. We need your continued support this fall to make a difference in the lives of so many others.

I'm sure fall will be in the air one day soon!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Festival of Trees.....	2
TSF Roadshow.....	2
TSF/KC Production	3
2027 Season.....	3
Green Group.....	4
Guild Board.....	4
Roadshow Cast	4
Season 2027 Plays.....	5-6

Guild Membership: Keep the Drive Alive

Martha Dalby, President-Elect/Membership

Thanks to the many members who have been steadily returning their membership forms or going to texasshakespeare.com to renew their status as a TSF Guild member. We are so happy to see you joining again!

And to those of you who are joining for the first time (or coming back for the first time in a while), we are overjoyed to welcome you. At the beginning of September, we had 433 members (44 new).

Every time someone joins the Guild, rest assured that the dues received are designated directly for the support of the Festival company and whatever other assistance we can provide, like helping to pay the new assisted listening system

installed a couple of years ago, or some intricate, elegant aspect of costuming that goes beyond the usual costs. We say it often, but it is true: so many elements would not be a part of the Festival experience without the money and labor provided by the Guild and Foundation. The Guild particularly provides for immediate needs, while the Foundation is focused on building financial resources for a secure future. Understanding the mission of each – and growing membership – is crucial. In the not-too-distant past (about 10 years ago), the Guild had nearly 1,000 members. We have a long way to travel before we can return to that destination. This is where ALL members can come to the aid of their Guild by recruiting others to join or to rejoin.

In the rush of preparing and providing, sometimes the boundaries of our year get muddled. Because we are tied to Kilgore College's fiscal year, our FINANCIAL year runs from 1 September to 31 August, which means some of our funds that come in online are not really transferred to the Guild until after the season is over at the end of July.

There are some additional considerations that should be kept in mind about membership. That fount of information, the Festival playbill, is completed in May. Thus, if you have not joined the Festival Guild by 1 May, you won't be listed as a Guild member in the roster of Festival supporters. That means that, for

See *Guild Drive*, page 2

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
X: [@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!

2026 Festival of Trees

Karen Mobbs

It's never too soon to start thinking about Christmas.

Sure, many of the local stores have already set out Halloween candy, but that's not the driving point.

The holiday season brings joy and wonder and sparkle and kindness—and there is never a bad time for those attributes.

With this in mind, the planning is underway for the third annual Texas Shakespeare Festival Guild's Festival of Trees. This year, the event will take place November 5-7 at the Bert Woodruff Building, right on Henderson Drive in Kilgore.

The Festival opens with a Thursday night Preview Party, a special evening of hors d'oeuvres and other gaiety, providing a first glimpse at the decorated trees, wreaths, and holiday décor. Youth choirs singing carols and artisan vendors offering their exceptional wares will greet Festival-goers from 10:30 a.m.–7:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday. All of the holiday effects have been lovingly donated and decorated by local groups, businesses, and individuals, and will be available by silent auction or raffle drawing. This season's collection will include several lottery ticket and gift card trees. Event coordinator Eileen Kosnik feels that all the pieces will be in place to “generate the mood necessary to prepare for the holidays.” “We all enjoy the Shakespeare Festival,” she declared, “and this is an excellent way to support that and inspire the creative holiday juices as well.”

Kosnik said the planning committee is still gratefully accepting more trees, wreaths, and décor in order to make the Festival even better than last year. She noted that in the first two years of the Festival of Trees, the Henderson and Kilgore communities had been exceptionally gracious in their donations and event attendance.

Kosnik also wanted to point out another special opportunity: Saturday morning's Teddy Bear Picnic. “This will be a chance for parents, grandparents, family, or friends to enjoy time with their little ones, featuring light refreshments and storytelling.”

“While the Preview Party will require the purchase of a \$20 ticket, the main two-day event and the Teddy Bear Picnic are free to the public. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket, find more information, or make a donation, either financial or of a tree, wreath, or piece of holiday décor, can go to www.texas-shakespeare.com/festival-of-trees.”

Yes, the temperatures outside are still in the 90s, but it is never too soon to start thinking about Christmas.

The TSF Roadshow is back!



This fall, the company will perform *Twelfth Night*, directed by Jason Richards, and *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits*, directed by Matthew Simpson.

Free Holiday Event
Festival of TREES

Preview Party
Nov. 5
6:00-7:30 pm

Teddy Bear Picnic
Nov. 7
10:30 am

Artisan Market
Nov. 5-7
10:30 am-7:00 pm

Dates & Venue
Thursday, November 5—Saturday, November 7
Bert E. Woodruff Adult Education Center
220 N. Henderson Blvd, Kilgore

Hours
Thursday, Preview Party 6:00 pm—7:30pm Ticketed Event
Friday & Saturday 10:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m. FREE

For More Info & Tickets: www.texasshakespeare.com/festival-of-trees
Questions? Contact: Eileen Kosnik: 903-330-1946 or Claudia Morgan Gray: 903-646-0506

Guild Drive (continued from page 1)

all practical purposes, our MEMBERSHIP year ends May 1; from then on, memberships are designated for the next year and would be recognized in the NEXT playbill with the NEXT season.

I know; a little confusing—but that's how it works.

Your dues are put to use whenever they come in—all year long. Festival time is where most effort and funds are expended, but the Guild also provides some support for members of the Roadshow company as well as the co-production with Kilgore College.

We want all of our Festival friends to be recognized, for without all of us working together and sharing the funds we can donate or the tasks we can assist with, the mission of the Guild could not be accomplished.

So far this year, membership is growing but remains less than it has been at some points in our history. Let us work to recruit and retain our members so that “the show can go on.” The Festival of Trees is coming up next!

The acting company will feature Nicholas DiPuma, D’Kameron Edmonson, Matthew Hernandez, Brianna Miller, Ayda Ozdoganlar, Mariana Saldaña, and Colin Villacorte, along with Robin Nipper serving as the stage manager. The company will tour East Texas and end with a residency at the Globe of the Great Southwest in Odessa, Texas.

This fall, the Texas Shakespeare Festival will join forces once again with Kilgore College Theatre to create a show featuring both professional and student actors. Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* reimagines the classic myth of Orpheus and Eurydice not through Orpheus's infamous pilgrimage to retrieve his bride, but through the eyes of its heroine. Dying too young on her wedding day, Eurydice must journey to the underworld, where she reunites with her father and struggles to remember her lost love. With contemporary characters, plot twists, and a script written to be a playground for designers, the play is a fresh look at a timeless love story. Don't miss this unique co-production, directed by Matthew Simpson and starring TSF favorites along with a cast of Kilgore College theatre majors.

Performance dates:

Thursday December 3rd- 10:00
 Thursday December 3rd- 7:30
 Friday December 4th- 10:00
 Friday December 4th- 7:30
 Saturday December 5th- 2:00
 Saturday December 5th- 7:30
 Sunday December 6th- 2:00

Location: Van Cliburn Auditorium on the campus of Kilgore College

Tickets are \$20 for TSF patrons and \$10 for students, with \$5 group rates available

To purchase tickets online, visit

www.texasshakespeare.tix.com

To reserve tickets for a group of 10 or more, call 903-983-8613 or email

info@texasshakespeare.com

THE TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
 AND KILGORE COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENT



Eurydice

BY SARAH RUHL

DECEMBER 3RD-6TH

at the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Center, Kilgore College

(903) 983-8613

texasshakespeare.com

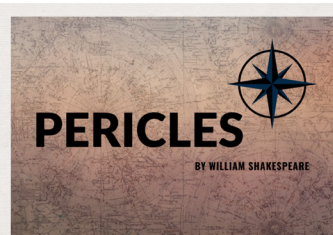
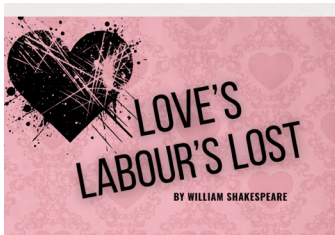
info@texasshakespeare.com



\$20 for TSF Patrons

\$10 for KC Students

\$5 tickets for groups of 10+



JOIN THE GREEN GROUP TODAY TO GET THE GG EDITION OF THIS NEWSLETTER WITH EXTRA PHOTOS, SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAYS AND BACKSTAGE INFO DURING THE SEASON.

See info on how to join on page 4.

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.



2026—2027 Executive Board

President	Sharon Noblit
President-Elect	Martha Dalby
Recording Secretary	Cindy Fields
Membership Secretary	Lois Knouse
Treasurer	Louise Cochran
Past President	Linda Crabtree
Co-VPs, Events	Eileen Kosnik
	Claudia Morgan-Gray
VP, House	D’Anna Yastrebov
Co-VPs, Communications	Kate Wells
	Michelle Wilder
	Lynn Wells, Graphic Design
TSF Artistic Director	Meaghan Simpson
TSF Managing Director	John Dodd
TSF Associate Artistic Director/	Matthew Simpson
Director of Development	

The TSF Roadshow is back! • The TSF Roadshow is back! • The TSF Roadshow is back!



Twelfth Night, directed by Jason Richards
Shakespeare’s Greatest Hits, directed by Matthew Simpson



Brianna Miller



Colin Villacorte



Ayda Ozdoganlar



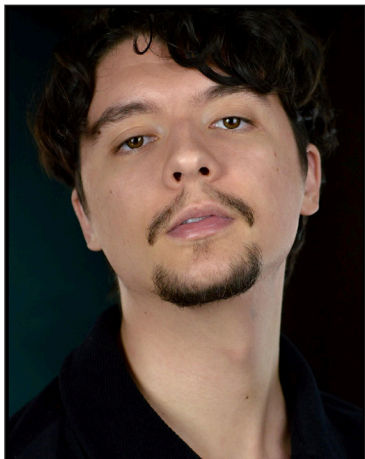
D’Kameron Edmonson



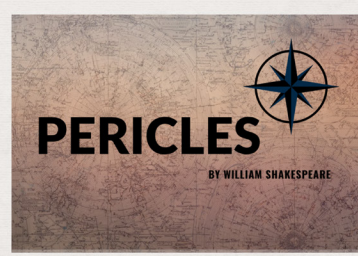
Mariana Saldana



Matthew Hernandez



Nick DiPuma



LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

By William Shakespeare

In an effort for self-improvement, four men make an oath to fast, study, and avoid the company of women for three years. Enter four beautiful women, and their resolve slowly disintegrates as they each fall hopelessly in love.

What to Expect: Love is at the center as the characters swirl around the questions of education, wisdom, honor, and which is the most noble to pursue. A classic romantic comedy with twists and turns to keep you on the edge of your seat.

You'll Love it if You Loved: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2026) *Twelfth Night* (2025), *Much Ado About Nothing* (2024)

Rating: PG

FALLEN ANGELS

By Noel Coward

Best friends, Julia and Jane, are both happily married women that have learned an old friend, Maurice (someone they both consider to be "the one who got away") is in town and wants to have a visit with them. As they battle his impending arrival, the champagne flows and with it they are both whipped into a frenzy of excitement and desperation.

What to Expect: A frothy, bubbly comedy that will have you laughing from start to end with the manic hilarity of two women walking the line of propriety and madness.

You'll Love it if You Loved: *Emma* (2026), *Steel Magnolias* (2025), *Blithe Spirit* (2016)

Rating: PG

PERICLES

By William Shakespeare

A sweeping nautical romance that tells the tale of the wandering prince Pericles as he finds love and loss. When he loses his wife and daughter at sea, Pericles spends his life going on a journey ending in a joyful reunion.

What to Expect: An epic romantic journey at sea filled with unique characters (pirates!) and heartfelt moments that will leave you with joy and hope.

You'll Love it if You Loved: *Hamlet* (2026) *The Tempest* (2022), *Cymbeline* (2014)

Rating: PG-13

BRIGHT STAR

By Steve Martin and Edie Brickell

Inspired by a true folk tale (The Iron Mountain Baby), *Bright Star* tells the story of literary editor Alice Murphy meeting a young soldier just home from World War II. After they meet, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past—and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives.

What to Expect: A heartfelt musical featuring a Tony-nominated score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, set against the vibrant backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and 1940s. A beautifully genuine and soul-stirring musical, that will captivate you with its deeply moving story and lively bluegrass score.

You'll Love it if You Loved: *1776* (2026), *110 in the Shade* (2018), *Blood Brothers* (2012)

Rating: PG

BEDTIME STORIES (as told by our dad) (who messed them up)

By Ed Monk

It's Dad's turn to tell his three rambunctious kids their bedtime stories, but when he gets fuzzy on the details, the classics get creative: a prince with a snoring problem spices up *The Princess and The Pea*, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* cries dinosaur instead, and Rumpelstiltskin helps turn all that pesky gold into straw. These fairy tales may seem familiar, but not the way Dad tells them!

What to Expect: Bedtime stories with a twist! A fun and charming show perfect for all ages.

You'll Love it if You Loved: *The Reluctant Dragon* (2026) *The Princess and the Players* (2025), *Tinker Bell* (2024)

Rating: G

DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE

A Staged Reading

By Ken Ludwig

When two strangers meet by letter during World War II, a love story begins. U.S. Army Captain Jack Ludwig, a military doctor stationed in Oregon, begins writing to Louise Rabiner, an aspiring actress and dancer in New York City, hoping to meet her someday if the war will allow. But as the war continues, it threatens to end their relationship before it even starts. Ken Ludwig tells the joyous, heart-warming story of his parents' courtship during World War II, and the results are anything but expected.

What to Expect: Playwright Ken Ludwig tells the joyous, heart-warming story of his parents' courtship during World War II, and the results are anything but expected.

You'll Love it if You Loved: *The Daisy Bradford 3*, (2025) *Jane Eyre* (2024) *Charlotte Collins* (2023)

Rating: PG